

Docket UE-991168 Electric System Reliability Rulemaking
WAC Chapter 480-100 Electric Companies - New Sections
2nd Informal Draft Reliability Rule - November 7, 2000

WAC 480-100-xx1 Electric Service Reliability Definitions

(1) “Electric service reliability” means the continuity and quality of electric service experienced by retail customers.

(2) “Reliability statistic” means a number, which may include multiple components (for example, service interruptions, customers, and hours), that measures electric service reliability.

(3) “Baseline reliability statistic” means a number measuring electric service reliability in a specified year that can be used as a comparison for measuring electric service reliability in subsequent years.

(4) “Sustained interruption” means an interruption to electric service that has a length of duration specified by the electric utility, but in any case not less than one minute.

(5) “Power quality” means characteristics of electricity, primarily voltage and frequency, that must meet certain specifications for safe, adequate and efficient operations.

(6) “Full-system” means all electrical lines and equipment used by the utility to serve retail customers.

(7) “Major event” means an event, usually a storm, that causes serious reliability problems, and that meets criteria established by the utility for such an event.

WAC 480-100-xx2 Electric Service Reliability Monitoring and Reporting Plan

(1) Who must file. Electric utilities subject to commission jurisdiction must file a plan for monitoring and reporting electric service reliability information to the commission.

(2) When to file. The plan for monitoring and reporting electric service reliability information must be filed with the commission ninety days after the effective date of this rule. Any modification to the plan must be filed with the commission before the modification is implemented.

(3) What to file. The utility must file a plan for monitoring and reporting electric service reliability information to the commission. The plan, and any modification to it, must be accepted by the commission. The plan must include the following items:

(a) What reliability statistics the utility will report to the commission. The utility must select and define statistics that track full-system reliability, and statistics that track localized reliability and identify areas of greatest reliability concern.

(b) When the utility will establish baseline reliability statistics to report to the commission. Prior to that date, the utility must report the best information available. The utility must establish baseline reliability statistics within three years of the effective date of this rule.

(c) When the utility will file an annual electric service reliability report to the commission, comparing each year's reliability statistics with baseline reliability statistics.

WAC 480-100-xx3 Electric Service Reliability Reports

The electric utility must file an electric service reliability report with the commission at least once a year. The report must meet the following conditions:

(1) The report must be consistent with the electric service reliability monitoring and reporting plan filed under WAC 480-100-xx2. As set forth in the plan, in an identified year, baseline reliability statistics must be established and reported. In subsequent years, new reliability statistics must be compared to the baseline reliability statistics and to reliability statistics from all intervening years to show trends. The utility must maintain historical reliability information necessary to show trends for a minimum of seven years.

(2) The report must address any changes that the utility may make in the collection and calculation of reliability information after initial baselines are set. The utility must explain and quantify the effect of such changes on the comparability of new reliability statistics to baseline reliability statistics.

(3) The report must identify the utility's worst reliability problems, provide an analysis of their causes, and explain how the utility plans to address them.

(4) The report must identify the total number of customer complaints about electric service reliability made to the utility during the year, and must distinguish between complaints about sustained interruptions and power quality. The report must also identify complaints that were made about major events.