



PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY

CR-101 (June 2004)
(Implements RCW 34.05.310)
Do **NOT** use for expedited rule making

Agency: Washington State Department of Commerce

Subject of possible rule making: Sections relating to energy conservation in Chapter 194-37 WAC Energy Independence Act

Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject: RCW 19.285.040(1); 19.285.080(2).

Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish:

The Energy Independence Act requires that electric utilities develop assessments of energy conservation potential using methodologies consistent with the Northwest Power Planning Council's regional power plan. The power council adopted a new power plan in 2016. Commerce is considering whether to update its rules to be consistent with the new power plan. Updating the rules would allow utilities to use the most up-to-date methodologies as they prepare their next assessments of conservation potential. Commerce is not considering rules that would prescribe utility-specific conservation measures, values, or assumptions.

Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies:

The Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) regulates investor-owned utilities, including their compliance with the Energy Independence Act. Commerce will coordinate the rulemaking with the UTC through staff-to-staff communications prior to each step.

Process for developing new rule (check all that apply):

- Negotiated rule making
 Pilot rule making
 Agency study
 Other (describe) Standard rule making

How interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication:

(List names, addresses, telephone, fax numbers, and e-mail of persons to contact; describe meetings, other exchanges of information, etc.)

Interested parties may submit written comments about the potential rulemaking until **July 20, 2016**. Send comments by email to eia@commerce.wa.gov. Commerce will conduct an initial workshop; the date and location will be posted on the agency's web site, <http://www.commerce.wa.gov/about-us/rulemaking>. All rulemaking documents and schedules will be posted on the agency web site. For questions or suggestions contact Glenn Blackmon, glenn.blackmon@commerce.wa.gov, (360) 725-3115.

DATE
June 21, 2016

NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)
Jaime Rossman

SIGNATURE

TITLE
Rules Coordinator

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STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

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