

WAC 480-109-070 Administrative penalties. (1) A utility that fails to achieve either its conservation target or its renewable resource target must pay an administrative penalty for each megawatt-hour of shortfall in the amount of fifty dollars adjusted annually, beginning in 2007, to reflect changes in the gross domestic product-implicit price deflator, as published by the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the United States Department of Commerce or its successor.

(2) Administrative penalties are due within fifteen days of a commission determination, pursuant to WAC 480-109-210(2), that a utility failed to achieve its conservation or renewable resource target.

(3) A utility that pays an administrative penalty under subsection (2) of this section, must notify its retail electric customers within three months of incurring a penalty stating the size of the penalty, the reason it was incurred and whether the utility expects to seek recovery of the penalty amounts in rates. The utility must provide this notification in a bill insert, a written publication mailed to all retail electricity customers, or another approach approved by the commission.

(4) A utility may request an accounting order from the commission authorizing the deferral of the cost of any administrative penalty assessed under this section. The approval of an accounting order to defer penalties does not constitute approval of recovery of penalties in rates. A utility may seek to recover deferred administrative penalties in a general rate case or power cost only type rate proceeding. If a utility seeks to recover deferred administrative penalties in rates, the utility must demonstrate the prudence of its decisions and actions when it failed to meet the renewable resource targets or one of the compliance alternatives provided in WAC 480-109-220, or the energy conservation targets. When assessing a request for recovery of deferred administrative penalties, the commission will consider the intent of the Energy Independence Act, other laws governing commission actions, policies and precedents of the commission, and the commission's responsibility to act in the public interest.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040, 80.04.160, and 19.285.080. WSR 15-07-043 (Docket UE-131723, General Order R-578), § 480-109-070, filed 3/12/15, effective 4/12/15.]