

WAC 480-107-015 The solicitation process. (1) Any owner of a generating facility, developer of a potential generating facility, marketing entity, or provider of energy savings may participate in the RFP process. Bidders may propose a variety of energy resources including: Electrical savings associated with conservation; electricity from qualifying facilities; electricity from independent power producers; and, at the utility's election, electricity from utility subsidiaries, and other electric utilities, whether or not such electricity includes ownership of property. Qualifying facility producers with a generation capacity of one megawatt or less may choose to participate in the utilities' standard tariffs without filing a bid.

(2) A utility may participate in the bidding process as a power supplier, or may allow a subsidiary or affiliate to participate in the bidding process as a power supplier, on conditions described in WAC 480-107-135 Conditions for purchase of electrical power or savings from a utility's subsidiary or affiliate. The utility's RFP submittal must declare the utility's or affiliate's participation and must demonstrate how the utility will satisfy the requirements of WAC 480-107-135.

(3) Timing of the solicitation process.

(a) The rules in this section do not apply when a utility's integrated resource plan, prepared pursuant to WAC 480-100-238, demonstrates that the utility does not need additional capacity within three years.

(b) A utility must submit to the commission a proposed request for proposals and accompanying documentation no later than one hundred thirty-five days after the utility's integrated resource plan is due to be filed with the commission. Interested persons will have sixty days from the RFP's filing date with the commission to submit written comments to the commission on the RFP. The commission will approve or suspend the RFP within thirty days after the close of the comment period.

(c) A utility must solicit bids for electric power and electrical savings within thirty days of a commission order approving the RFP.

(d) All bids will remain sealed until expiration of the solicitation period specified in the RFP.

(4) In addition to the solicitation process required by these rules, a utility may, at its own discretion, issue an RFP that limits project proposals to resources with specific characteristics. In addition, a utility, at its own discretion, may issue RFPs more frequently than required by this rule.

(5) Persons interested in receiving commission notice of a specific utility's RFP filings can request the commission to place their names on a mailing list for notification of future RFP filings by that utility.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 06-08-025 (Docket No. UE-030423, General Order No. R-530), § 480-107-015, filed 3/28/06, effective 4/28/06.]