

WAC 480-07-415 Discovery conference. (1) **General.** The commission may request or require the parties to attend a discovery conference along with designated witnesses to discuss with each other questions about the party's positions or evidence and the availability of supporting information.

(2) **Purpose.** The purpose of a discovery conference is:

(a) To allow witnesses and others who have knowledge relating to the proceeding (e.g., consultants or employees) to talk directly and informally;

(b) To reduce or avoid the need for written data requests and time for their preparation;

(c) To allow discussions of potential stipulations regarding individual facts and settlement of individual issues to occur in an informal setting;

(d) To discuss the availability of supporting information; and

(e) To enhance the parties' ability to acquire or expand their knowledge about the case of one or more designated other parties.

(3) **Statements not evidence.** Discovery conferences will not be reported and statements made by participants at discovery conferences are not admissible as evidence unless the parties agree otherwise.

(4) **Facilitator.** The commission may designate a person to facilitate a discovery conference. The designated facilitator must not be associated with any party or with the commission advisory staff involved in the proceeding.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 17-06-051 (General Order R-588), § 480-07-415, filed 2/28/17, effective 3/31/17; WSR 03-24-028 (General Order R-510, Docket No. A-010648), § 480-07-415, filed 11/24/03, effective 1/1/04.]