WASHINGTON UTC UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Senior Electricity Policy Specialist (Project)

Recruitment #P11099632WMS
Olympia, Washington
Visit our website at www.wutc.wa.gov

December 18, 2009

Working Title:	Senior Electricity Policy Specialist
Type of Position:	Full-Time, Project Four (4) year project ending September 30, 2013
Location:	Olympia, Washington
Salary Range:	$73,000 – $89,000 annually, depending on qualifications
Benefits:	The UTC offers a comprehensive benefits package
Closing Date:	Open until filled (Note: the hiring manager may make a hiring decision at any time during the recruitment process)

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) is seeking an experienced individual to perform senior-level policy analysis and recommendations on complex regulatory matters that have a significant impact on multi-billion dollar energy utilities, energy consumers, and other stakeholders.

AGENCY OVERVIEW

The UTC regulates the rates, services and practices of privately-owned utilities and transportation companies, including: electric, telecommunications, natural gas, water, and solid waste collection companies, private commercial ferries, buses and household goods movers. The agency also enforces pipeline and railroad safety standards.

The mission of the UTC is to protect consumers by ensuring fairly priced, available, reliable and safe utility and transportation services. The UTC helps consumers make informed choices; provides regulatory oversight in the absence of competitive markets; ensures consumer protection is maintained during and after the transition to more competitive markets; and ensures public safety is achieved by minimizing hazards resulting from company practices.

POSITION ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The UTC was awarded funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 to enhance the capability of the UTC to manage an increased and broadened scope of regulatory work resulting from Recovery Act policy initiatives. This position will provide direct policy and decision-making support to the commissioners and executive director. This position will serve as an expert in policy, economic or technical issues related to UTC-regulated electric industries, specifically in the areas of conservation and renewable technologies, grid system technology and planning, and power system reliability and security. Projects, assignments and continuing work includes formulating, developing, analyzing, communicating, and implementing state, regional or national policies that affect electric companies regulated by the commission. This position supports the agency's mission to protect consumers by ensuring that decisions made by the commission produce energy, transportation, and other services for consumers that are fairly priced, available, reliable and safe.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

A graduate level degree in economics, public policy, or closely allied field, and three years of professional experience in public utility regulation. Substantial relevant experience beyond the three years may substitute for a graduate degree.

Knowledge of:

- Regulatory theory and practice; current regulatory environment; interpretation and application of state and federal statutes and regulations; and state, regional and federal policy regarding regulated electricity industry.
- Principles of economics, rate design and business management as they apply to electric utility companies.

Ability to:

- Work cooperatively and effectively with agency commissioners, staff, and managers; government officials; industry representatives; and members of the public in a team environment and with a diverse group of technical experts.
- Provide effective staff support to appointed commissioners, including the ability to tailor the amount and nature of support to the needs and preferences of the individual commissioners.
- Make decisions independently and quickly, and engage in creative problem-solving.
- Employ and interpret research and statistical methodologies and economic and policy theories and principles. Able to use the information to develop and effectively present recommendations to commissioners.
- Develop, analyze and interpret data and information; respond to data and information requests; review federal and state legislation; review federal and state agency regulatory proposals; draft testimony and comments; and testify at or prepare testimony for agency and legislative hearings.
- Balance the interests of consumers and shareholders of regulated companies to achieve sound and balanced public policy goals and objectives.
- Effectively use computer resources and electronic information resources; and gather, develop, and interpret quantitative and qualitative information.
- Learn and adhere to all applicable state ethics laws.

Agency Core Competencies:

- Customer Focus – Responsive to both internal and external customers. Works with customer to identify needs; assumes responsibility for own role in meeting those needs. Ensures commitments to customers are met. Receptive to customer feedback.
- Results Focus – Accepts personal accountability for individual results or share of team results. Manages workload and interpersonal relationships to achieve results, prioritizes tasks appropriately, overcomes obstacles, works with others as necessary, and meets deadlines and quality standards.
- Communication Skills - Demonstrates communication skills (reading comprehension, writing, listening, speaking) appropriate to the position. Shows respect and courtesy in interpersonal communications.
- Adaptability/Flexibility - Open to new ideas. Responds constructively to change and stressful situations. In consultation with supervisor, adjusts plans to meet changing needs.
- Self-Development – Demonstrates proactive learning. Keeps knowledge and skills up-to-date. Solicits and accepts constructive feedback. Seeks developmental assignments to improve skills. Turns challenges into learning opportunities.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS – In addition to the required qualifications, the UTC is most interested in candidates who have the following:

- Knowledge and understanding of the business interests of the electric companies the UTC regulates, and emerging trends, challenges, technologies and competitive environment of the markets in which these companies participate.
- Understanding of the UTC rules, procedures, policies, goals, objectives and strategies, and the body of UTC precedent and orders related to the affected electric industries.
- Knowledge of public entities and national bodies involved in energy and other issues and the actions they take that affect their industries, (e.g., federal legislature, courts and agencies). These entities may include the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, US Department of Energy, Energy Information Agency, Northwest Power and Conservation Council, Department of Community Trade and Economic Development, Washington State University Energy Extension Service, Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council, Public Council, Northwest Energy Coalition, customer groups and the municipal utilities operating in Washington.

- Knowledge of policies and rules of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). These policies include not only the rate making functions of the FERC, but rulemaking and issues surrounding state/federal jurisdiction and the required agency interactions under state and federal statutes.
- Knowledge of and experience with the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) and the quasi-judicial legal process including the rules of and property presentation of evidence.

SPECIAL NOTES:

Project Position: This is a project position that is expected to end by September 30, 2013.

Conflict of Interest**:** RCW 80.01.020 limits UTC's ability to employ any person who owns stock in any company the UTC regulates or is otherwise financially interested in such company. Such interests include those of an employee's spouse.

Authorization to Work**:** UTC may only hire those who are legally authorized to work in the United States.

APPLICATION PROCESS: Please submit the following materials:

1. A cover letter describing how you meet the qualifications for this position.
2. A résumé which includes your employment history.
3. Three to five professional references with direct knowledge of your qualifications for this position along with current contact information for each. Please include at least one reference from a current and former supervisor, and one from a current or former peer.
4. The UTC will appreciate your voluntary cooperation in filling out the applicant profile data form and submitting it with your application materials. This information is for reporting purposes only and is strictly confidential. To download the form click **Applicant Profile Data form

Please send your materials to:

Email is preferred	If email is not possible mail materials to
Email: **Jobs@utc.wa.gov** Subject Line: **Recruitment # P11099632WMS**	**Recruitment # P11099632WMS** Human Resource Office Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission PO Box 47250 Olympia, WA 98504-7250
By submitting materials you are indicating that all information is true and correct. The state may verify information. Any untruthful or misleading information is cause for removal from the applicant pool or dismissal if employed.	

QUESTIONS? Please call 664-1243 if you have any questions about this recruitment.

Visit these links to learn more about the UTC at **http://www.wutc.wa.gov**,
the state of Washington at http://www.experiencewa.com/home.aspx
and the Olympia area at http://www.experiencewa.com/cities/olympia.aspx.

The Utilities and Transportation Commission is an equal opportunity employer. We strive to create a working environment that includes and respects cultural, racial, ethnic, sexual orientation and gender identity diversity. Women, racial, and ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, persons over 40 years of age, disabled and Vietnam era veterans and people of all sexual orientations and gender identities are encouraged to apply. Persons needing accommodation in the application process or this announcement in an alternative format may contact Susan Holman at sholman@utc.wa.gov or 360 664-1243. Our statewide toll free TTY number is 800 416-5289.