



May 26, 2021

AR 638 Workgroup Launch Announcement



This letter serves as an update to the AR 638 permanent rulemaking schedule and announces the launch of the topical wildfire mitigation planning work groups led by Public Utility Commission of Oregon Staff (Staff).

[Permanent Rulemaking Schedule Update](#)

Attached is an update to the AR 638 schedule and timeline for the permanent rulemaking. This update reflects the following changes:

- Work groups launch in May—kick-off meeting dates below
- Quarterly updates to the Commission begin in July
- Expectation to wrap workgroup efforts by October 2021—this timeline will be dependent on the final scope and meeting schedule identified with work group participants, but aware of the goal to begin formal rulemaking in Q1 2022.

[Workgroup Launch](#)

As described on pages 2-5 of Staff's [Scope and Schedule Announcement](#), Staff proposes to structure discussion about permanent rules around topical work groups. Work groups will meet regularly to:

1. Develop a detailed issues list within each topic
2. For each issue, the work group will discuss:
 - Best practices for wildfire mitigation planning, activities, and investments;
 - Expectations for inclusion in utility plans – including near-term expectations and long-term vision; and
 - Metrics to track performance, ongoing improvement, and progress toward the long-term vision.
3. Document the outcome of discussion for all issues:
 - Areas of consensus
 - Parties' positions where this is not consensus
 - Areas where additional research or analysis are needed.

Work group participation information:

- Participation in work groups is open to any interested person. Each work group is assigned a Staff Contact. Please call or email the listed contact to join a work group. The Staff Contact will manage a participant list and communicate directly with work group members. Work group meeting schedules, notes, and other resources will be posted to the AR 638 docket and [OPUC Wildfire Mitigation Webpage](#), as well.
- The date and time for kick-off meetings of each work group is provided in the table below.
- An agenda for each work group kick-off meeting will be sent directly to participants, posted to the AR 638 docket and noticed to the AR 638 service list, and posted to the OPUC Wildfire Mitigation Webpage.
- At the kick-off meeting, the work group will discuss meeting frequency and get feedback on structuring the work group.

Work Group Launch Schedule			
Topic	Proposed Scope <i>To be refined with work group members</i>	Staff lead <i>Contact to join work group</i>	Kick-off meeting date/time
Wildfire Risk Analysis	Practices and methodology for identifying high fire consequence areas to inform mitigation plans	Curtis Dlouhy Curtis.DLOUHY@puc.oregon.gov 503-510-3350	June 14, 2021 2:00p – 4:00p (Pacific)
Public Safety Power Shut-off (PSPS)	Protocols, criteria, and communication/ coordination practices for deenergizing or sectionalizing circuits <i>**Please note: discussion of support for communities and vulnerable populations will occur in the Communication and Engagement group)</i>	Nadine Hanhan Nadine.HANHAN@puc.oregon.gov 503-931-0161	June 15, 2021 1:00p – 2:30p (Pacific)
Community Engagement	Emergency communications protocols, identification of vulnerable populations, utility obligations to support customers and communities (backup power, shelters, etc...)	Michelle Scala Michelle.M.SCALA@puc.oregon.gov 503-689-2608	June 15, 2021 2:45p – 4:15p (Pacific)
Vegetation Management	Schedules, standards, and enforcement	Mark Rettmann Mark.RETTMANN@puc.oregon.gov 503-881-6739	June 29,2021 1:00p – 2:30p (Pacific)
System Hardening and Operations	Identifying and prioritizing system hardening investments, operational practices, inspection practices, and other utility risk mitigation actions	Yassir Rashid Yassir.RASHID@puc.oregon.gov 503-949-5870	June 29,2021 2:45p – 4:30p (Pacific)
Cost Analysis	Approach to evaluating investment options e.g., cost recovery, performance metrics	TBD – will launch after scoping utility investments and operations to determine appropriate venue to discuss for cost-benefit analysis	

If you have questions about the process or content of this rulemaking, contact: Lori Koho, Administrator Safety, Reliability, & Security Division, 503-576-9789, lori.koho@puc.oregon.gov.

AR 638 – **REVISED** Risk-based Wildfire Protection Plans and Planned Activities Rulemaking Schedule

