

Requirements for Public Testimony & Public Comments in Lieu of Testimony



Requirements for Public Testimony & Public Comments in Lieu of Testimony

1. A person's testimony or written comment in lieu of testimony may consist of the person's personal knowledge or personal opinions only. A reference document, article or other attachment not written by the person commenting is not considered a public comment or part of the person's testimony, but may be referenced in a person's comment or testimony.
2. At a public hearing, a person may provide in-person oral or written testimony. For written comments submitted in lieu of testifying at a public hearing, only one comment may be submitted per person per comment period.
3. For written comments in lieu of testimony, comments submitted via email or fax will not be accepted.
4. For written comments in lieu of testimony, comments received before an official comment period opens or after the official comment deadline has passed will not be accepted.

The Commission encourages members of the public to submit their opinions and draw attention to reference materials in an organized manner using these requirements for submitting written comments in lieu of testifying at a public hearing. The above requirements for written comments help Commission staff and the Commissioners identify and analyze the comments of members of the public that are submitted on a particular matter. These requirements do not prevent any relevant information from being evaluated by Commission staff or the Commissioners. The requirements are discussed in more detail below.

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The purpose of soliciting public testimony or written comments in lieu of testimony is to obtain opinions and local information or knowledge from members of the public about a specific matter before the Commission. In soliciting such input, unless specifically requested, the Commission does not seek to obtain newspaper articles, white papers, studies, professional journal articles, or any other form of publication or third-party writing. Copies of publications or third-party writings provided at a public hearing will not be incorporated into the record as part of the person's testimony. Similarly, copies of publications or third-party writings filed in a docket will not be incorporated into the record as part of a person's written comment in lieu of testimony. Such documents may, however, be properly cited as reference materials in support of an opinion held by the person testifying or submitting the written comment. Commenters may cite reference materials and include a list of reference materials cited in their comments or testimony when applicable.

- 2. At a public hearing, a person may provide in-person oral or written testimony. For written comments submitted in lieu of testifying at a public hearing, only one comment may be submitted per person per comment period.**

A member of the public has an opportunity to testify at a public hearing when one is held. However, this opportunity does not permit a person to testify multiple times at a hearing or at multiple hearings on the same topic if multiple hearing dates and locations are scheduled on a given matter. At a public hearing, a person has the option of either providing in-person oral or written testimony.

Every member of the public also has an opportunity to file a written comment in lieu of testifying at a public hearing. However, this opportunity is not intended to permit a person to submit multiple comments at multiple times. Only the first written comment a person submits to the Commission in lieu of testifying at a public hearing will be accepted.

- 3. For written comments in lieu of testimony, comments received before an official comment period opens or after the official comment deadline has passed will not be accepted.**

The Commission clearly identifies the applicable time period for submitting written comments in lieu of testimony and communicates these time periods to the public in the Notice of Hearing. Written comments in lieu of testimony are not accepted before a comment period opens, because comments filed outside of the official comment period do not become part of the record in a docket. Comment deadlines are enforced and late comments will not be accepted to avoid delay in processing a case.

For More Information

If you need more information about participating in PSC proceedings, or have questions about a specific docket, look at the PSC website, contact the docket coordinator, or call the PSC.

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin is an independent state agency that oversees more than 1,100 Wisconsin public utilities that provide natural gas, electricity, heat, steam, water and telecommunications services.



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