



# RULE-MAKING ORDER

**CR-103P (May 2009)**  
**(Implements RCW 34.05.360)**

**Agency:** Department of Revenue

**Permanent Rule Only**

**Effective date of rule:**

**Permanent Rules**

31 days after filing.

Other (specify) ( If less than 31 days after filing, a specific finding under RCW 34.05.380(3) is required and should be stated below)

**Any other findings required by other provisions of law as precondition to adoption or effectiveness of rule?**

Yes  No If Yes, explain:

**Purpose:** The rules being adopted are: WAC 458-20-10001, 458-20-10003, 458-20-10004, 458-20-10201, 458-20-10202, and 458-20-273.

The adopted rules incorporate new terms used for informal review hearings under recently adopted WAC 458-20-100 Informal administrative reviews. The six rules in this proposal are having the terms "Appeals Division" changed to "Administrative Review and Hearings Division." Further, the term "section" is changed to "rule" throughout; and the Department of Revenue's website address is listed as: "dor.wa.gov." Addresses and telephone numbers have been updated, as needed.

**Citation of existing rules affected by this order:**

Repealed:

Amended: WAC 458-20-10001, 458-20-10003, 458-20-10004, 458-20-10201, 458-20-10202, and 458-20-273.

Suspended:

**Statutory authority for adoption:** RCW 82.32.300 and 82.01.060(2)

**Other authority :**

**PERMANENT RULE (Including Expedited Rule Making)**

Adopted under notice filed as WSR 16-07-079 on March 17, 2016.

Describe any changes other than editing from proposed to adopted version: The proposal included a repealer for WAC 458-20-102A and 458-20-242A that was erroneously filed in WSR 16-07-079. Pursuant to RCW 34.05.335, the Department of Revenue filed WSR 16-13-010 that withdrew the repealer for WAC 458-20-102A and 458-20-242A; and also proceeded with the expedited rule-making process for the six rules being adopted.

If a preliminary cost-benefit analysis was prepared under RCW 34.05.328, a final cost-benefit analysis is available by contacting:

Name: phone ( )  
Address: e-mail

**Date adopted:**

June 6, 2016

**NAME**

Kevin Dixon

**SIGNATURE**

**TITLE**

Rules Coordinator

**CODE REVISER USE ONLY**

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER  
STATE OF WASHINGTON  
FILED

**DATE: June 06, 2016**

**TIME: 11:57 AM**

**WSR 16-13-029**

**Note: If any category is left blank, it will be calculated as zero.  
No descriptive text.**

Count by whole WAC sections only, from the WAC number through the history note.  
A section may be counted in more than one category.

**The number of sections adopted in order to comply with:**

|   |     |         |          |
|---|-----|---------|----------|
| <b>Federal statute:</b>                 | New | Amended | Repealed |
| <b>Federal rules or standards:</b>      | New | Amended | Repealed |
| <b>Recently enacted state statutes:</b> | New | Amended | Repealed |

**The number of sections adopted at the request of a nongovernmental entity:**

|     |         |          |
|-----|---------|----------|
| New | Amended | Repealed |
|-----|---------|----------|

**The number of sections adopted in the agency's own initiative:**

|     |         |   |          |
|-----|---------|---|----------|
| New | Amended | 6 | Repealed |
|-----|---------|---|----------|

**The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:**

|     |         |   |          |
|-----|---------|---|----------|
| New | Amended | 6 | Repealed |
|-----|---------|---|----------|

**The number of sections adopted using:**

|                                       |     |         |          |
|---------------------------------------|-----|---------|----------|
| <b>Negotiated rule making:</b>        | New | Amended | Repealed |
| <b>Pilot rule making:</b>             | New | Amended | Repealed |
| <b>Other alternative rule making:</b> | New | Amended | Repealed |

**WAC 458-20-10001 Adjudicative proceedings—Brief adjudicative proceedings—Certificate of registration (tax registration endorsement) revocation.** (1) **Introduction.**

The department of revenue (department) has adopted the procedure for brief adjudicative proceedings provided in RCW 34.05.482 through 34.05.494, except for RCW 34.05.491(5), for actions involving revocation of a certificate of registration (tax registration endorsement) pursuant to RCW 82.32.215. This ~~((section))~~ rule explains the procedure for these brief adjudicative proceedings. This ~~((section))~~ rule does not apply to the following:

- Adjudicative proceedings under WAC 458-20-10002, which addresses converted brief adjudicative proceedings and formal adjudicative proceedings relating to log export enforcements;
- Nonadjudicative proceedings under RCW 82.32.160 and 82.32.170, and WAC 458-20-100;
- Enforcement proceedings under RCW 82.24.550 and 82.26.220; and
- Brief adjudicative proceedings for matters relating to the revocation of reseller permits under WAC 458-20-102.

The department has not adopted RCW 34.05.491(5), which provides that a request for administrative review is deemed to have been denied if the agency does not make a disposition of the matter within twenty days after the request is submitted.

(2) **Brief adjudicative proceedings - Procedure.** The following procedure applies to the department's brief adjudicative proceedings for actions involving revocation of a certificate of registration, unless the matter is converted to a formal proceeding as provided in subsection (8) of this ~~((section))~~ rule.

(a) **Notice.** The department will set the time and place of the hearing. Written notice shall be served upon the taxpayer(s) at least seven days before the date of the hearing. Service is to be made pursuant to subsection (5)(a) of this ~~((section))~~ rule. The notice must include:

(i) The names and addresses of each taxpayer to whom the proceedings apply and, if known, the names and addresses of the taxpayer's representative(s), if any;

(ii) The mailing address and the telephone number of the person or office designated to represent the department in the proceeding;

(iii) The official file or other reference number and the name of the proceeding;

(iv) The name, official title, mailing address and telephone number of the presiding officer, if known;

(v) A statement of the time, place and nature of the proceeding;

(vi) A statement of the legal authority and jurisdiction under which the hearing is to be held;

(vii) A reference to the particular sections of the statutes and/or rules involved;

(viii) A short and plain statement of the matters asserted by the department against the taxpayer and the potential action to be taken; and

(ix) A statement that if the taxpayer fails to attend or participate in a hearing, the hearing can proceed and that adverse action may be taken against the taxpayer.

(x) When the department is notified or otherwise made aware that a limited-English-speaking person is a person to whom the proceedings apply, all notices, including the notice of hearing, continuance and dismissal, must either be in the primary language of that person or must include a notice in the primary language of the person which describes the significance of the notice and how the person may receive assistance in understanding and responding to the notice. In addition, the notice must state that if a party or witness needs an interpreter, a qualified interpreter will be appointed at no cost to the party or witness. The notice must include a form to be returned to the department to indicate whether such person, or a witness, needs an interpreter and to identify the primary language or hearing impaired status of the person.

(b) **Appearance and practice at a brief adjudicative proceeding.** The right to practice before the department in a brief adjudicative proceeding is limited to:

- (i) Persons who are natural persons representing themselves;
- (ii) Attorneys at law duly qualified and entitled to practice in the courts of the state of Washington;
- (iii) Attorneys at law entitled to practice before the highest court of record of any other state, if attorneys licensed in Washington are permitted to appear before the courts of such other state in a representative capacity, and if not otherwise prohibited by state law;
- (iv) Public officials in their official capacity;
- (v) Certified public accountants entitled to practice in the state of Washington;
- (vi) A duly authorized director, officer, or full-time employee of an individual firm, association, partnership, or corporation who appears for such firm, association, partnership, or corporation;
- (vii) Partners, joint venturers or trustees representing their respective partnerships, joint ventures, or trusts; and
- (viii) Other persons designated by a person to whom the proceedings apply with the approval of the presiding officer.

In the event a proceeding is converted from a brief adjudicative proceeding to a formal proceeding, representation is limited to the provisions of law and RCW 34.05.428.

(c) **Hearings by telephone.** With the concurrence of the presiding officer and all persons involved in the proceedings, a hearing may be conducted telephonically. The conversation will be recorded and will be made a part of the record of the hearing.

(d) **Presiding officer.**

(i) The presiding officer must be an assistant director of the department's compliance division, or such other person as the director of the department may designate.

(ii) The presiding officer shall conduct the proceeding in a just and fair manner and before taking action, the presiding officer shall provide the taxpayer an opportunity to be informed of the department's position on the pending matter.

(iii) The presiding officer has all authority granted under chapter 34.05 RCW.

(e) **Entry of orders.**

(i) When the presiding officer issues a decision, the presiding officer shall briefly state the basis and legal authority for the decision. Within ten days of issuing the decision, the presiding officer shall serve upon the parties, the initial order and information regarding any departmental administrative review that may be available.

(ii) The decision and the brief written statement of the basis and legal authority for it is an initial order. The initial order will become a final order if no review is requested as provided in subsection (3) of this ~~((section))~~ rule.

(3) **Review of initial orders from brief adjudicative proceeding.** The following procedure applies to the department's review of a brief adjudicative proceeding conducted pursuant to subsection (2) of this ~~((section))~~ rule, unless the matter is converted to a formal proceeding as provided in subsection (8) of this ~~((section))~~ rule.

(a) **Request for review of the initial order.** A party to a brief adjudicative proceeding under subsection (2) of this ~~((section))~~ rule may request review of the initial order by filing a written petition for review, or making an oral request for review, with the department's ~~((appeals))~~ administrative review and hearings division within twenty-one days after service of the initial order is received ~~((or deemed to be received))~~ by the party. The address and telephone number of the ~~((appeals))~~ administrative review and hearings division is:

~~((Appeals))~~ Administrative Review and Hearings Division  
Washington State Department of Revenue  
P.O. Box 47460  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7460  
Telephone Number: 360-534-1335  
Fax: 360-534-1340

(i) When a petition of review of the initial order is made, the taxpayer must submit to the ~~((appeals))~~ administrative review and hearings division at the time the petition is filed any evidence or written material relevant to the matter that the party wishes the reviewing officer to consider. If the petition for review is made by oral request, the taxpayer must also submit any evidence or written material to the ~~((appeals))~~ administrative review and hearings division on the same day that the oral request is made.

(ii) The department may, on its own motion, conduct an administrative review of the initial order as provided for in RCW 34.05.491.

(b) **Reviewing officer.** The ~~((appeals))~~ administrative review and hearings division shall appoint a reviewing officer who shall make such determination as may appear to be just and lawful. The reviewing officer shall provide the taxpayer and the department an opportunity to explain their positions on the matter and shall make any inquiries necessary to ascertain whether the proceeding should be converted to a formal adjudicative proceeding. The review by the ~~((appeals))~~ administrative review and hearings division shall be governed by the brief adjudicative procedures of chapter 34.05 RCW and this ~~((section))~~ rule; or WAC 458-20-10002 in the event a brief adjudicative hearing is converted to a formal adjudicative proceeding, and not by the processes and procedures of WAC 458-20-100. The reviewing officer shall have the authority of a presiding officer as provided in this ~~((section))~~ rule.

(c) **Record review.** Review of an initial order is limited to the evidence considered by the presiding officer, the initial order, the recording of the initial proceeding, and any records and written evidence submitted by the parties to the reviewing officer. However, the agency record need not constitute the exclusive basis for the reviewing officer's decision.

(i) The reviewing officer may request additional evidence from either party at any time during its review of the initial order. Once the reviewing officer requests evidence from a party, that party has

seven days after service of the request to supply the evidence to the reviewing officer, unless the reviewing officer, in his or her discretion, allows additional time to submit the evidence.

(ii) In addition to requesting additional evidence, the reviewing officer may review any records of the department necessary to confirm that the tax warrant upon which the initial order of revocation was based remains unpaid. In the event that the tax warrant has been satisfied subsequent to the entry of the initial order, but before the issuance of the final order, the reviewing officer shall reinstate the taxpayer's certificate of registration.

(iii) If the reviewing officer determines that oral testimony is needed, he/she may schedule a time for both parties to present oral testimony. Notice of the oral testimony must be given to the parties in the same manner as the notice provided in subsection (2)(a) of this ~~((section))~~ rule. Oral statements before the reviewing officer shall be by telephone, unless specifically scheduled by the reviewing officer in his or her discretion to be in person.

(iv) The department will have an opportunity to respond to the taxpayer's request for review and may also submit any other relevant evidence and written material to the reviewing officer. The department must submit its material within seven days of service of the material submitted by the party requesting review of the initial order. The department must also serve a copy of all evidence and written material provided to the reviewing officer to the taxpayer requesting review according to subsection (5) of this ~~((section))~~ rule. Proof of service is required under subsection (5)(h) of this ~~((section))~~ rule when the department submits material to the taxpayer under this subsection.

(d) **Failure to participate.** If a party requesting review of an initial order under this subsection fails to participate in the proceeding or fails to provide documentation to the reviewing officer upon his or her request, the reviewing officer may uphold the initial order based upon the record.

(e) **The final orders.**

(i) The reviewing officer may issue two final orders. The first final order (the "final order") must include the decision of the reviewing officer and a brief statement of the basis and legal authority for the decision. This order may contain confidential taxpayer information under RCW 82.32.330, and, therefore, cannot be disclosed by the department, except to the taxpayer.

(ii) The reviewing officer may issue a second final order (the "posting order"). The posting order will be issued when the reviewing officer has ordered the revocation of the tax registration certificate. The posting order will state what certificate of registration is being revoked, the listing of the tax warrants involved, and what jurisdictions the tax warrants were filed in.

(iii) Unless specifically indicated otherwise, the term "final order" as used throughout this ~~((section))~~ rule shall refer to both the final order and the posting order.

(iv) The parties can expect that, absent continuances, the final order and posting order will be entered within twenty days of the petition for review.

(f) **Reconsideration.** Unless otherwise provided in the reviewing officer's order, the reviewing officer's order represents the final position of the department. A reconsideration of the reviewing officer's order may be sought only if the right to a reconsideration is contained in the final order.

(g) **Judicial review.** Judicial review of the final order of the department is available under Part V, chapter 34.05 RCW. However, judicial review may be available only if a review of the initial decision has been requested under this subsection and all other administrative remedies have been exhausted. See RCW 34.05.534.

(4) **Rules of evidence - Record of the proceeding.**

(a) Evidence is admissible if in the judgment of the presiding or reviewing officer it is the kind of evidence on which reasonably prudent persons are accustomed to rely on in conducting their affairs. The presiding and reviewing officer should apply RCW 34.05.452 when ruling on evidentiary issues in the proceeding.

(b) All oral testimony must be recorded manually, electronically, or by another type of recording device. The agency record must consist of the documents regarding the matters that were considered or prepared by the presiding officer, or by the reviewing officer in any review, and the recording of the hearing. These records must be maintained by the department as its official record.

(5) **Service.** All notices and other pleadings or papers filed with the presiding or reviewing officer must be served on the taxpayer, their representatives/agents of record, and the department.

(a) Service is made by one of the following methods:

- In person;
- By first-class, registered, or certified mail;
- By fax and same-day mailing of copies;
- By commercial parcel delivery company; or
- By electronic delivery pursuant to RCW 82.32.135.

(b) Service by mail is regarded as completed upon deposit in the United States mail properly stamped and addressed.

(c) Service by electronic fax is regarded as completed upon the production by the fax machine of confirmation of transmission.

(d) Service by commercial parcel delivery is regarded as completed upon delivery to the parcel delivery company, properly addressed with charges prepaid.

(e) Service by electronic delivery is regarded as completed on the date that the department electronically sends the information to the parties or electronically notifies the parties that the information is available to be accessed by them.

(f) Service to a taxpayer, their representative/agent of record, the department, and presiding officer must be to the address shown on the notice described in subsection (3)(a) of this ~~((section))~~ rule.

(g) Service to the reviewing officer must be to the ~~((appeals))~~ administrative review and hearings division at the address shown in subsection (3) of this ~~((section))~~ rule.

(h) Where proof of service is required, the proof of service must include:

- An acknowledgment of service;
- A certification, signed by the person who served the document(s), stating the date of service; that the person did serve the document(s) upon all or one or more of the parties of record in the proceeding by delivering a copy in person to (names); and that the service was accomplished by a method of service as provided in this subsection.

(6) **Interpreters.** When a party or witness requires an interpreter, chapters 2.42 and 2.43 RCW will apply. When those statutes are silent on an issue before the presiding or reviewing officer, the provisions regarding interpreters in WAC 10-08-150 apply.

(7) **Informal settlements.** The department encourages informal settlement of issues in proceedings under its jurisdiction. The presiding or reviewing officer may not order settlement of the proceedings. Settlement is at the discretion of the parties. Settlement of a proceeding may be concluded by:

(a) A stipulation signed by the taxpayer and the department, or their respective representatives, and/or recited into the record of the proceedings. If the stipulation provides for a payment agreement, the presiding or reviewing officer may order a continuance of the proceedings during the period of repayment and dismissal when all payments have been made. An order providing for the reconvening of the proceedings if the payment agreement is breached is allowed so long as the proceeding is not held less than seven days after notice of the reconvening is provided. Except as provided in this subsection, the presiding or reviewing officer must enter an order in conformity with the terms of the stipulation; or

(b) The entry of an order dismissing the proceedings if the department withdraws the revocation of the certificate of registration.

(8) **Conversion of a brief adjudicative proceeding to a formal proceeding.** The presiding or reviewing officer may at any time, on motion of the taxpayer, the department, or the officer's own motion, convert the brief adjudicative proceeding to a formal proceeding.

(a) The presiding or reviewing officer may convert the proceeding if the officer finds that use of the brief adjudicative proceeding:

- Violates any provision of law,
- The protection of the public interest requires the agency to give notice to and an opportunity to participate to persons other than the parties, or
- The issues and interests involved warrant the use of procedures governed by RCW 34.05.413 through 34.05.476 or 34.05.479.

(b) WAC 458-20-10002 applies to formal proceedings. In proceedings to revoke a taxpayer's certificate of registration, the converted proceeding is itself the independent administrative review by the department of revenue as provided in RCW 82.32A.020(6).

(9) **Computation of time.** In computing any period of time prescribed by this ((section)) rule, the day of the act or event after which the designated period is to run is not included. The last day of the period is included, unless it is a Saturday, Sunday, or a state legal holiday, in which event the period runs until the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or state legal holiday. When the period of time prescribed is less than seven days, intermediate Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays will be excluded in the computation.

(10) **Posting of a final order of revoking a tax registration endorsement - Revocation not a substitute for other collection methods or processes available to the department.** When an order revoking a tax registration endorsement is a final order of the department, the department shall post a copy of the posting order in a conspicuous place at the main entrance to the taxpayer's place of business and it must remain posted until such time as the warrant amount has been paid.

(a) It is unlawful to engage in business after the revocation of a tax registration endorsement. A person engaging in the business after a revocation may be subject to criminal sanctions as provided in RCW 82.32.290. RCW 82.32.290(2) provides that a person violating the prohibition against such engaging in business is guilty of a Class C felony in accordance with chapter 9A.20 RCW.

(b) Any certificate of registration revoked shall not be reinstated, nor a new certificate of registration issued until:



(i) The amount due on the warrant has been paid, or provisions for payment satisfactory to the department of revenue have been entered; and

(ii) The taxpayer has deposited with the department of revenue as security for taxes, increases and penalties due or which may become due under such terms and conditions as the department of revenue may require, but the amount of the security may not be greater than one-half the estimated average annual tax liability of the taxpayer.

(c) Revocation proceedings will not substitute for, or in any way curtail, other collection methods or processes available to the department.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 12-24-008, filed 11/27/12, effective 12/28/12)

**WAC 458-20-10003 Brief adjudicative proceedings for matters related to suspension, nonrenewal, and nonissuance of licenses to sell spirits.** (1) **Introduction.** The department of revenue (department) conducts adjudicative proceedings pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW, the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). The department adopts in this ~~((section))~~ rule, the procedures as provided in RCW 34.05.482 through 34.05.494 for the administration of brief adjudicative proceedings to review the department notice explained in subsection (2) of this ~~((section))~~ rule. The department must provide the notice before it may proceed in requesting that the Washington liquor control board (board) suspend, not renew, or not issue a taxpayer's spirits license(s) as defined in RCW 66.24.010 (3)(c), referred to in this ~~((section))~~ rule as "agency action."

This ~~((section))~~ rule explains the procedure pertaining to the adopted brief adjudicative proceedings.

(2) **Department notice.** If a taxpayer is more than thirty days delinquent in reporting or remitting spirits taxes on a tax return or assessed by the department, including applicable penalties and interest, the department may request that the board suspend the taxpayer's spirits license or licenses and refuse to renew any existing spirits license held by the taxpayer or issue any new spirits license to the taxpayer. Before the department may take agency action, the department must provide the taxpayer with at least seven calendar days prior written notice of the delinquency and inform the taxpayer that the department intends to make the request to the board. The department notice must include:

(a) A listing of any unfiled tax returns;

(b) The amount of unpaid spirits taxes as applicable, including any applicable penalties and interest;

(c) Who to contact to inquire about payment arrangements; and

(d) Information that the taxpayer may seek administrative review of the department notice, including the deadline for seeking such review.

A taxpayer may seek an administrative review of the department notice as explained under subsection (3) of this ~~((section))~~ rule. Brief adjudicative proceedings under this ~~((section))~~ rule do not include the right to challenge the amount of any spirits taxes assessed by the department.

(3) **Conduct of brief adjudicative proceedings.** To initiate an appeal of a department notice, the taxpayer has seven calendar days from the date on the department notice to request a review of that notice. The taxpayer must file a written notice of appeal explaining why the taxpayer disagrees with the notice of delinquency.

A form notice of appeal is available at (~~http://dor.wa.gov~~) dor.wa.gov or by calling 1-800-647-7706. The completed form should be mailed or faxed to the department at:

Washington State Department of Revenue  
Compliance Administration  
Spirits License Suspension Petition  
P.O. Box 47473  
Olympia, WA 98504-7473  
Fax: 360-586-8816

(a) A presiding officer, who will be either the assistant director of the compliance division or such other person as designated by the director of the department (director), will conduct brief adjudicative proceedings. The presiding officer for brief adjudicative proceedings will have agency expertise in the subject matter but will not otherwise have participated in the specific matter. The presiding officer's review is limited to the written record.

(b) As part of the notice of appeal, the taxpayer or the taxpayer's representative may include written documentation explaining the taxpayer's view of the matter. The presiding officer may also request additional documentation from the taxpayer or the department and will designate the date by which the documents must be submitted.

(c) In addition to the record, the presiding officer for brief adjudicative proceedings may employ agency expertise as a basis for decision.

(d) Within ten days of receipt of the taxpayer's notice of appeal, the presiding officer will enter an initial order including a brief explanation of the decision under RCW 34.05.485. All orders in these brief adjudicative proceedings will be in writing. The initial order will become the department's final order unless a petition for review is made to the department's (~~appeals~~) administrative review and hearings division under subsection (4) of this (~~section~~) rule. If the presiding officer's order invalidates the department notice, the department may in its discretion start new proceedings by sending a new department notice.

(4) **Review of initial order from brief adjudicative proceeding.** A taxpayer that has received an initial order upholding a department notice under subsection (3) of this (~~section~~) rule may request a review by the department by filing a written petition for review or by making an oral request for review with the department's (~~appeals~~) administrative review and hearings division within twenty-one days after the service of the initial order on the taxpayer as described in subsection (8) of this (~~section~~) rule.

A form petition of review is available at (~~http://dor.wa.gov~~) dor.wa.gov. A request for review should state the reasons for the review.

The address, telephone number, and fax number of the (~~appeals~~) administrative review and hearings division are:

(~~Appeals~~) Administrative Review and Hearings Division  
Spirits License Petition for Review/Spirits Taxes  
Washington State Department of Revenue

P.O. Box 47460  
Olympia, WA 98504-7460  
Telephone Number: 360-534-1335  
Fax: 360-534-1340

(a) A reviewing officer, who will be either the assistant director of the ((~~appeals~~)) administrative review and hearings division or such other person as designated by the director, will conduct a brief adjudicative proceeding and determine whether the initial order was correctly decided. The reviewing officer's review is limited to the written record.

(b) The agency record need not constitute the exclusive basis for the reviewing officer's decision. The reviewing officer will have the authority of a presiding officer.

(c) The order of the reviewing officer will be in writing and include a brief statement of the reasons for the decision, and it must be entered within twenty days of the petition for review. The order will include a notice that judicial review may be available. The order of the reviewing officer represents a final order of the department. If a final order invalidates the department notice, the department may in its discretion start new proceedings by sending a new department notice.

(d) A request for review is deemed denied if the department does not issue an order on review within twenty days after the petition for review is filed.

(5) **Record in brief adjudicative proceedings.** The record with respect to the brief adjudicative proceedings under RCW 34.05.482 through 34.05.494 related to department notice will consist of:

(a) *The record before the presiding officer:* The record before the presiding officer consists of the department notice; the taxpayer's appeal of the department notice; all records relied upon by the department or submitted by the taxpayer related to the department notice; and all correspondence between the taxpayer and the department regarding the department notice.

(b) *The record before the reviewing officer:* The record before the reviewing officer consists of all documents included in the record before the presiding officer; the taxpayer's petition for review; and all correspondence between the taxpayer and the department regarding the taxpayer's petition for review.

(6) **Court appeal.** Court appeal from the final order of the department is available pursuant to Part V, chapter 34.05 RCW. However, court appeal may be available only if a review of the initial decision has been requested under subsection (4) of this ((~~section~~)) rule and all other administrative remedies have been exhausted. See RCW 34.05.534.

(7) **Computation of time.** In computing any period of time prescribed by this ((~~section~~)) rule or by the presiding officer or reviewing officer, the day of the act or event after which the designated period is to run is not to be included. The last day of the period is to be included, unless it is a Saturday, Sunday or a legal holiday, in which event the period runs until the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. This subsection does not apply with respect to computation of the seven calendar days required for the department notice.

(8) **Service.** All notices and other pleadings or papers filed with the presiding or reviewing officer must be served on the taxpayer, their representatives/agents of record, and the department.

(a) Service is made by one of the following methods:

(i) In person;

(ii) By first-class, registered or certified mail;

(iii) By fax and same-day mailing of copies;

(iv) By commercial parcel delivery company; or

(v) By electronic delivery pursuant to RCW 82.32.135.

(b) Service by mail is regarded as completed upon deposit in the United States mail properly stamped and addressed.

(c) Service by electronic fax is regarded as completed upon the production by the fax machine of confirmation of transmission.

(d) Service by commercial parcel delivery is regarded as completed upon delivery to the parcel delivery company, properly addressed with charges prepaid.

(e) Service by electronic delivery is regarded as completed on the date that the department electronically sends the information to the parties or electronically notifies the parties that the information is available to be accessed by them.

(f) Service to a taxpayer, their representative/agent of record, the department, and presiding officer must be to the address shown on the notice described in subsection (3)(a) of this (~~section~~) rule.

(g) Service to the reviewing officer must be to the (~~appeals~~) administrative review and hearings division at the address shown in subsection (4) of this (~~section~~) rule.

(h) Where proof of service is required, the proofs of service must include:

(i) An acknowledgment of service;

(ii) A certificate, signed by the person who served the document(s), stating the date of service; that the person did serve the document(s) upon all or one or more of the parties of record in the proceeding by delivering a copy in person to (names); and that the service was accomplished by a method of service as provided in this subsection.

(9) **Continuance.** The presiding officer or reviewing officer may grant, in their sole discretion, a request for a continuance by motion of the taxpayer, the department, or on its own motion.

(10) **Conversion of a brief adjudicative proceeding to a formal proceeding.** The presiding officer or reviewing officer, in their sole discretion, may convert a brief adjudicative proceeding to a formal proceeding at any time on motion of the taxpayer, the department, or the presiding/reviewing officer's own motion.

(a) The presiding/reviewing officer will convert the proceeding when it is found that the use of the brief adjudicative proceeding violates any provision of law, when the protection of the public interest requires the agency to give notice to and an opportunity to participate to persons other than the parties, and when the issues and interests involved warrant the use of the procedures of RCW 34.05.413 through 34.05.479.

(b) When a proceeding is converted from a brief adjudication to a formal proceeding, the director may become the presiding officer or may designate a replacement presiding officer to conduct the formal proceedings upon notice to the taxpayer and the department.

(c) In the conduct of the formal proceedings, WAC 458-20-10002 will apply to the proceedings.

(11) **Taking agency action.** The department may initiate agency action as follows:

(a) If the taxpayer does not file a timely appeal under subsection (3) of this (~~section~~) rule, the department may proceed with

agency action the day following the end of the period for requesting such appeal;

(b) If the taxpayer does not make a petition for review consistent with subsection (4) of this ~~((section))~~ rule, the department may proceed with agency action the day following the end of the period for making such petition of review;

(c) If the department makes a final order adverse to the taxpayer under subsection (4) of this ~~((section))~~ rule, the department may proceed with agency action the day following the date the department issues its final order.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 14-13-098, filed 6/17/14, effective 7/18/14)

**WAC 458-20-10004 Brief adjudicative proceedings for matters related to assessments and warrants for unpaid fees issued under chapter 59.30 RCW for manufactured and mobile home communities.** (1) Introduction. The department of revenue (department) conducts adjudicative proceedings pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW, the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). The department adopts in this ~~((section))~~ rule, the procedures as provided in RCW 34.05.482 through 34.05.494 for the administration of brief adjudicative proceedings to review the department's actions described in subsection (2) of this ~~((section))~~ rule.

This ~~((section))~~ rule explains the procedure pertaining to the adopted brief adjudicative proceedings.

(2) Department's action. The following actions taken by the department are subject to the brief adjudicative proceeding process described in this ~~((section))~~ rule:

(a) Assessment of the one-time business license application fee or annual renewal application fee in RCW 59.30.050 (3)(a);

(b) Assessment of the annual registration assessment fee in RCW 59.30.050 (3)(b); and

(c) Assessment of the delinquency fee in RCW 59.30.050(4).

The assessment of more than one type of fee against a manufactured/mobile home community owner or landlord in RCW 59.30.050 does not result in the creation of more than one adjudicative proceeding if those fees are issued in the same document, on the same date.

As explained in RCW 59.30.020(4), the terms "landlord" and "community owner" both refer to the owner of the mobile home park or manufactured home community or their agents. For purposes of this rule, the department refers to such persons as "community owners."

(3) Conduct of brief adjudicative proceedings. To initiate an appeal of the department's action, the community owner has twenty-one calendar days from the date on the department's action to request a review of that action. The community owner must file a written notice of appeal explaining why the community owner disagrees with the action.

A form notice of appeal is available at ~~((http://dor.wa.gov))~~ dor.wa.gov or by calling 1-800-647-7706. The completed form should be mailed or faxed to the department at:

Washington State Department of Revenue  
Special Programs

Review of Annual Registration for Manufactured/Mobile Home Communities

P.O. Box 47472  
Olympia, WA 98504-7472  
Fax: 360-534-1320

(a) A presiding officer, who will be a person designated by the director of the department (director) or the assistant director of special programs division, will conduct brief adjudicative proceedings. The presiding officer for brief adjudicative proceedings will have agency expertise in the subject matter but will not otherwise have participated in the specific matter. The presiding officer's review is limited to the written record.

(b) As part of the notice of appeal, the community owner or the community owner's representative may include written documentation explaining the community owner's view of the matter. The presiding officer may also request additional documentation from the community owner or the department and will designate the date by which the documents must be submitted.

(c) In addition to the record, the presiding officer for brief adjudicative proceedings may employ agency expertise as a basis for decision.

(d) Within twenty-one calendar days of receipt of the community owner's notice of appeal, the presiding officer will enter an initial order including a brief explanation of the decision under RCW 34.05.485. All orders in these brief adjudicative proceedings will be in writing. The initial order will become the department's final order unless a petition for review is made to the department's ((appeals)) administrative review and hearings division under subsection (4) of this ((section)) rule. If the presiding officer's order invalidates the department action, the department may in its discretion initiate another action that corrects the defects in the prior action.

(4) Review of initial order from brief adjudicative proceeding. A community owner that has received an initial order upholding a department action under subsection (3) of this ((section)) rule may request a review by the department by filing a written petition for review or by making an oral request for review with the department's ((appeals)) administrative review and hearings division within twenty-one calendar days after the service of the initial order on the community owner as described in subsection (8) of this ((section)) rule.

A form petition of review is available at ((<http://dor.wa.gov>)) dor.wa.gov. A request for review should state the reasons for the review.

The address, telephone number, and fax number of the ((appeals)) administrative review and hearings division are:

((Appeals)) Administrative Review and Hearings Division  
Manufactured/Mobile Home Community Appeals  
Washington State Department of Revenue  
P.O. Box 47460  
Olympia, WA 98504-7460  
Telephone Number: 360-534-1335  
Fax: 360-534-1340

(a) A reviewing officer, who will be either the assistant director of the ((appeals)) administrative review and hearings division or such other person as designated by the director, will conduct a brief adjudicative proceeding and determine whether the initial order was

correctly decided. The reviewing officer's review is limited to the written record.

(b) The agency record need not constitute the exclusive basis for the reviewing officer's decision. The reviewing officer will have the authority of a presiding officer.

(c) The order of the reviewing officer will be in writing and include a brief statement of the reasons for the decision, and it must be entered within thirty calendar days of the petition for review. The order will include a notice that judicial review may be available. The order of the reviewing officer represents a final order of the department. If a final order invalidates the department's action, the department may in its discretion initiate another action that corrects the defects in the prior action.

(5) Record in brief adjudicative proceedings. The record with respect to the brief adjudicative proceedings under RCW 34.05.482 through 34.05.494 will consist of:

(a) The record before the presiding officer: The record before the presiding officer consists of the notice of the department action; the community owner's appeal of the department action; all records relied upon by the department or submitted by the community owner related to the department's action; and all correspondence between the community owner and the department regarding the department's action.

(b) The record before the reviewing officer: The record before the reviewing officer consists of all documents included in the record before the presiding officer; the community owner's petition for review; and all correspondence between the community owner and the department regarding the community owner's petition for review.

(6) Court appeal. Court appeal from the final order of the department is available pursuant to Part V, chapter 34.05 RCW. However, court appeal may be available only if a review of the initial decision has been requested under subsection (4) of this ~~(section)~~ rule and all other administrative remedies have been exhausted. See RCW 34.05.534.

(7) Computation of time. In computing any period of time prescribed by this ~~(section)~~ rule or by the presiding officer or reviewing officer, the day of the act or event after which the designated period is to run is not to be included. The last day of the period is to be included, unless it is a Saturday, Sunday, or a legal holiday, in which event the period runs until the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday.

(8) Service. All notices and other pleadings or papers filed with the presiding or reviewing officer must be served on the community owner, their representatives/agents of record, and the department.

(a) Service is made by one of the following methods:

(i) In person;

(ii) By first-class, registered or certified mail;

(iii) By fax and same-day mailing of copies;

(iv) By commercial parcel delivery company; or

(v) By electronic delivery pursuant to RCW 82.32.135.

(b) Service by mail is regarded as completed upon deposit in the United States mail properly stamped and addressed.

(c) Service by electronic fax is regarded as completed upon the production by the fax machine of confirmation of transmission.

(d) Service by commercial parcel delivery is regarded as completed upon delivery to the parcel delivery company, properly addressed with charges prepaid.

(e) Service by electronic delivery is regarded as completed on the date that the department electronically sends the information to the parties or electronically notifies the parties that the information is available to be accessed by them.

(f) Service to a community owner, their representative/agent of record, the department, and presiding officer must be to the address shown on the form notice of appeal described in subsection (3) of this ~~((section))~~ rule.

(g) Service to the reviewing officer must be to the ~~((appeals))~~ administrative review and hearings division at the address shown in subsection (4) of this ~~((section))~~ rule.

(h) Where proof of service is required, the proofs of service must include:

(i) An acknowledgment of service;

(ii) A certificate, signed by the person who served the document(s), stating the date of service; that the person did serve the document(s) upon all or one or more of the parties of record in the proceeding by delivering a copy in person to (names); and that the service was accomplished by a method of service as provided in this subsection.

(9) Continuance. The presiding officer or reviewing officer may grant, in their sole discretion, a request for a continuance by motion of the community owner, the department, or on its own motion.

(10) Conversion of a brief adjudicative proceeding to a formal proceeding. The presiding officer or reviewing officer, in their sole discretion, may convert a brief adjudicative proceeding to a formal proceeding at any time on motion of the community owner, the department, or the presiding/reviewing officer's own motion.

(a) The presiding/reviewing officer will convert the proceeding when it is found that the use of the brief adjudicative proceeding violates any provision of law, when the protection of the public interest requires the agency to give notice to and an opportunity to participate to persons other than the parties, and when the issues and interests involved warrant the use of the procedures of RCW 34.05.413 through 34.05.479.

(b) When a proceeding is converted from a brief adjudication to a formal proceeding, the director may become the presiding officer or may designate a replacement presiding officer to conduct the formal proceedings upon notice to the community owner and the department.

(c) In the conduct of the formal proceedings, WAC 458-20-10002 will apply to the proceedings.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 16-01-155, filed 12/21/15, effective 1/21/16)

**WAC 458-20-10201 Application process and eligibility requirements for reseller permits.** (1) **Introduction.** Reseller permits, issued by the department of revenue (department), replaced resale certificates as the documentation necessary to substantiate the wholesale nature of a sales transaction effective January 1, 2010. This rule explains the criteria under which the department will automatically issue a reseller permit, the application process for both contractors and taxpayers engaging in other business activities when the department does not automatically issue or renew a reseller permit, and the



criteria that may result in the denial of an application for a reseller permit. Unique requirements and provisions apply to contractors. (See Part III of this rule.)

The information in this rule is organized into the following three parts:

- (a) Part I: General Information.
- (b) Part II: Businesses Other than Contractors.
- (c) Part III: Contractors.

(2) **Other rules that may apply.** Readers may want to refer to other rules for additional information, including those in the following list:

(a) WAC 458-20-102 (Reseller permits) which explains taxpayers' responsibilities regarding the use of reseller permits, sellers' responsibilities for retaining copies of reseller permits, and the implications for taxpayers not properly using reseller permits and sellers not obtaining copies of reseller permits from taxpayers;

(b) WAC 458-20-10202 (Brief adjudicative proceedings for matters related to reseller permits) which explains the process a taxpayer must use to appeal the department's denial of an application for a reseller permit; and

(c) WAC 458-20-192 (Indian-Indian country) which explains the extent of the state's authority to regulate and impose tax in Indian country.

(3) **Examples.** This rule contains examples that identify a number of facts and then state a conclusion. The examples should be used only as a general guide. The tax results of other situations must be determined after a review of all the facts and circumstances.

#### Part I - General Information

**(101) Definitions.** For the purpose of this rule, the following terms will apply:

(a) **Consumer.** "Consumer" has the same meaning as under RCW 82.04.190.

(b) **Contractor.** A "contractor" is a person whose primary business activity is as a contractor as defined under RCW 18.27.010 or an electrical contractor as defined under RCW 19.28.006.

(c) **Gross income.** "Gross income" means gross proceeds of sales as defined in RCW 82.04.070 and value of products manufactured as determined under RCW 82.04.450.

(d) **Labor.** "Labor" is defined as the work of subcontractors (including personnel provided by temporary staffing companies) hired by a contractor to perform a portion of the construction services in respect to real property owned by a third party. In the case of speculative builders, labor includes the work of any contractor hired by the speculative builder. Labor does not include the work of taxpayer's employees. Nor does the term include architects, consultants, engineers, construction managers, or other independent contractors hired to oversee a project but who are not responsible for the construction of the project. However, for purposes of the percentage discussed in subsection (303)(a)(iii) of this rule, purchases of labor may include the wages of taxpayer's employees and amounts paid to consultants, engineers, construction managers or other independent contractors hired to oversee a project if all such purchases are commingled in the applicant's records and it would be impractical to exclude such purchases.

(e) **Materials.** "Materials" is defined as tangible personal property that becomes incorporated into the real property being constructed, repaired, decorated, or improved. Materials are the type of tan-

gible personal property that contractors on retail construction projects purchase at wholesale, such as lumber, concrete, paint, wiring, pipe, roofing materials, insulation, nails, screws, drywall, and flooring material. Materials do not include consumable supplies, tools, or equipment, whether purchased or rented, such as bulldozers. However, for purposes of the percentage discussed in subsection (303)(a)(iii) of this rule, purchases of consumable supplies, tools, and equipment rentals may be included with material purchases if all such purchases are commingled in the applicant's records and it would be impractical to exclude such purchases.

(f) **Material misstatement.** "Material misstatement" is a false statement knowingly or purposefully made by the applicant with the intent to deceive or mislead the department.

(g) **Outstanding tax liability.** For the purpose of this rule, "outstanding tax liability" is any issued tax invoice that has not been paid in full on or before its stated due date. The definition excludes an invoice placed on hold by the department or where the department has executed a payment agreement with the taxpayer and the taxpayer is still in compliance with that agreement.

(h) **Reseller permit.** A "reseller permit" is the document issued to a taxpayer by the department, a copy of which the taxpayer provides to a seller to substantiate a wholesale purchase. A wholesale purchase is not subject to retail sales tax. RCW 82.04.060; 82.08.020.

(i) **Retail construction activity.** "Retail construction activity" means the constructing, repairing, decorating, or improving of new or existing buildings or other structures under, on, or above real property of or for consumers, including the installing or attaching of any article of tangible personal property therein or thereto, whether or not such personal property becomes a part of the realty by virtue of installation, and it also includes the sale of services or charges made for the clearing of land and the moving of earth except the mere leveling of land used in commercial farming or agriculture. Retail construction activity generally involves residential and commercial construction performed for others, including road construction for the state of Washington. It generally includes construction activities that are not specifically designated as speculative building, government contracting, public road construction, logging road construction, radioactive waste cleanup on federal lands, or designated hazardous site clean up jobs.

(j) **Wholesale construction activity.** "Wholesale construction activity" means labor and services rendered for persons who are not consumers in respect to real property, if such labor and services are expressly defined as a retail sale by RCW 82.04.050 when rendered to or for consumers.

**(102) Can any business obtain a reseller permit?** No. The legislature passed the act authorizing reseller permits to address the significant retail sales tax noncompliance problem resulting from both the intentional and unintentional misuse of resale certificates. The department will not issue a reseller permit unless the business substantiates that it is entitled to make wholesale purchases. Some businesses may not receive a reseller permit, and if they make wholesale purchases, they will need to pay retail sales tax to the seller and then claim a "taxable amount for tax paid at source" deduction on their excise tax return or request a refund from the department as discussed in subsection (205) of this rule.

**Example 1.** BC Interior Design (BC) arranges for its customers to order and pay for furniture, window treatments and other decorative

items directly from vendors. As the customers purchase directly from the vendors, and BC does not purchase the items for resale to their customers, BC may not qualify for a reseller permit. BC must meet the criteria as discussed in subsection (203) of this rule, which includes reporting income from retailing, wholesaling, or manufacturing activities.

## **Part II - Businesses Other than Contractors**

**(201) How does a business obtain a reseller permit?** The department may automatically issue a reseller permit to a business if it appears to the department's satisfaction, based on the nature of the business's activities and any other information available to the department, that the business is entitled to make purchases at wholesale.

Those businesses that do not receive an automatically issued reseller permit may apply to the department to obtain a reseller permit. Applications can be filed using the businesses' "My Account." If a paper application is needed, businesses can obtain one by calling 1-800-647-7706 (taxpayer services) or 360-902-7137 (taxpayer account administration). Completed paper applications should be mailed or faxed to the department at:

Taxpayer Account Administration  
Washington State Department of Revenue  
P.O. Box 47476  
Olympia, WA 98504-7476  
Fax: 360-705-6733

**(202) When does a business apply for a reseller permit?** A business may apply for a reseller permit at any time.

**(203) What criteria will the department consider when deciding whether a business will receive a reseller permit?**

(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, a business other than a contractor will receive a reseller permit if it satisfies the following criteria (contractors should refer to subsection (303) of this rule for an explanation of the requirements unique to them):

(i) The business has an active tax reporting account with the department;

(ii) The business has reported gross income on its excise tax returns covering a monthly or quarterly period during the immediately preceding six months or, if the business reports on an annual basis, on the immediately preceding annual excise tax return; and

(iii) Five percent or more of the business's gross income reported during the applicable six- or twelve-month period described in (a)(ii) of this subsection was reported under a retailing, wholesaling, or manufacturing business and occupation (B&O) tax classification.

(b) Notwithstanding (a) of this subsection, the department may deny an application for a reseller permit if:

(i) The department determines that an applicant is not entitled to make purchases at wholesale or is otherwise prohibited from using a reseller permit based on the nature of the applicant's business;

(ii) The applicant has been assessed the penalty for the misuse of a resale certificate or a reseller permit;

(iii) The application contains any material misstatement;

(iv) The application is incomplete;

(v) The applicant has an outstanding tax liability due to the department; or

(vi) The department determines that denial of the application is in the best interest of collecting the taxes due under Title 82 RCW.

(c) The department's decision to approve or deny an application may be based on excise tax returns previously filed with the department by the applicant, a current or previous examination of the applicant's books and records by the department, information provided by the applicant in the master application and the reseller permit application, and other information available to the department.

(d) In the event that a business has reorganized, the new business resulting from the reorganization may be denied a reseller permit if the former business would not have qualified for a reseller permit under (a) or (b) of this subsection. For purposes of this subsection, "reorganize" means:

(i) The transfer, however effected, of a majority of the assets of one business to another business where any of the persons having an interest in the ownership or management in the former business maintain an ownership or management interest in the new business, either directly or indirectly;

(ii) A mere change in identity or form of ownership, however effected; or

(iii) The new business is a mere continuation of the former business based on significant shared features such as owners, personnel, assets, or general business activity.

**(204) What if I am a new business and don't have a past reporting history?** New businesses will generally be issued permits if they indicate they will engage in activity taxable under a retailing, wholesaling, or manufacturing B&O tax classification.

**(205) What if I don't get a reseller permit and some of my purchases qualify as wholesale purchases?** Some taxpayers that do not qualify for a reseller permit make occasional wholesale purchases. In these circumstances, the taxpayer must pay retail sales tax on these purchases and then claim a "taxable amount for tax paid at source" deduction on its excise tax return. However, such a deduction in respect to the purchase of services is not permitted if the services are not of a type that can be sold at wholesale under the definition of wholesale sale in RCW 82.04.060.

Alternatively, the taxpayer may request a refund from the department of retail sales tax it paid on purchases that are later resold without being used (intervening use) by the taxpayer or for purchases that would otherwise have met the definition of wholesale sale if the taxpayer had provided the seller with a reseller permit or uniform exemption certificate as authorized in RCW 82.04.470. For instructions on requesting a refund see WAC 458-20-229.

### **Part III - Contractors**

**(301) How does a contractor obtain a reseller permit?** The department may automatically issue a reseller permit to a contractor if the department is satisfied that the contractor is entitled to make purchases at wholesale and that issuing the reseller permit is unlikely to jeopardize collection of sales taxes due based on the criteria discussed in subsection (303) of this rule.

Contractors that do not receive an automatically issued reseller permit may apply to the department to obtain a reseller permit in the same manner as provided in subsection (201) of this rule. However, the application identifies information specific to contractors that must be provided.

**(302) When does a contractor apply for a reseller permit?** The same guidelines for business applicants as provided in subsection (202) of this rule also apply to contractor applicants.

**(303) What are the criteria specific to contractors to receive a reseller permit?**

(a) The department may issue a permit to a contractor that:

(i) Provides a completed application with no material misstatement as that term is defined in this rule;

(ii) Demonstrates it is entitled to make purchases at wholesale; and

(iii) Reported on its application at least twenty-five percent of its total dollar amount of material and labor purchases in the preceding twenty-four months were for retail and wholesale construction activities performed by the contractor.

The department may approve an application not meeting these criteria if the department is satisfied that approval is unlikely to jeopardize collection of the taxes due under Title 82 RCW.

(b) If the criteria in (a) of this subsection are satisfied, the department will then consider the following factors to determine whether to issue a reseller permit to a contractor:

(i) Whether the contractor has an active tax reporting account with the department;

(ii) Whether the contractor has reported gross income on its excise tax returns covering a monthly or quarterly period during the immediately preceding six months or, if the contractor reports on an annual basis, on the immediately preceding annual excise tax return;

(iii) Whether the contractor has the appropriate certification and licensing with the Washington state department of labor and industries;

(iv) Whether the contractor has been assessed the penalty for the misuse of a resale certificate or a reseller permit;

(v) Whether the contractor has an outstanding tax liability due to the department; and

(vi) Any other factor resulting in a determination by the department that denial of the contractor's application is in the best interest of collecting the taxes due under Title 82 RCW.

(c) The department's decision to approve or deny an application may be based on the same materials and information as discussed in subsection (203)(c) of this rule.

(d) The provisions of subsection (203)(d) of this rule apply equally to contractors.

**Example 2.** DC Contracting is a speculative homebuilder and also purchases houses to renovate and sell, sometimes referred to as flipping. A speculative builder is the consumer of all materials incorporated into the real estate including houses purchased for flipping. Retail sales tax is owed on all supplies and services DC Contracting purchases, unless there is an applicable exemption. DC Contracting would not qualify for a reseller permit under these facts.

**(304) What if a contractor does not obtain a reseller permit and some of its purchases do qualify as wholesale purchases?** The provisions of subsection (205) of this rule apply equally to contractors.

**WAC 458-20-10202 Brief adjudicative proceedings for matters related to reseller permits.** (1) **Introduction.** The department of revenue (department) conducts adjudicative proceedings pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW, the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). The department adopts in this (~~section~~) rule the brief adjudicative procedures as provided in RCW 34.05.482 through 34.05.494 for the administration of brief adjudicative proceedings for the following matters related to reseller permits:

(a) A determination of whether an applicant for a reseller permit meets the criteria for a reseller permit per WAC 458-20-10201;

(b) On the administrative appeal of an initial order denying the taxpayer's application for a reseller permit, a determination as to whether the department's order denying the application was correctly based on the criteria for approving reseller permits as set forth in WAC 458-20-10201;

(c) A determination of whether a reseller permit should be revoked using the criteria per RCW 82.32.780 and WAC 458-20-102; and

(d) On the administrative appeal of an initial order revoking the taxpayer's reseller permit, a determination as to whether the department's order revoking the permit was correctly based on the criteria as set forth in RCW 82.32.780 and WAC 458-20-102.

This (~~section~~) rule explains the procedure and process pertaining to the adopted brief adjudicative proceedings.

(2) **Record in brief adjudicative proceedings.**

(a) The record with respect to a taxpayer's appeal per RCW 34.05.482 through 34.05.485 of the department's denial of an application for a reseller permit will consist of:

(i) The taxpayer's application for the reseller permit, the taxpayer's notice of appeal, the taxpayer's written response, if any, to the reasons set forth in the department's notice of denial of a reseller permit, all records relied upon by the department or submitted by the taxpayer; and

(ii) All correspondence between the taxpayer requesting the reseller permit and the department regarding the application for the reseller permit.

(b) The record with respect to a taxpayer's appeal per RCW 34.05.482 through 34.05.485 of the department's initial order revoking a reseller permit will consist of the department's notice of intent to revoke the reseller permit, the taxpayer's written response to the department's notice of intent to revoke, the taxpayer's notice of appeal, and all records relied upon by the department, or submitted by the taxpayer.

(3) **Conduct of brief adjudicative proceedings.**

(a) If the department denies an application for a reseller permit, it will notify the taxpayer of the denial in writing, stating the reasons for the denial. To initiate an appeal of the denial of the reseller permit application, the taxpayer must file a written appeal no later than twenty-one days after service of the department's written notice that the taxpayer's application has been denied.

(b) If the department proposes to revoke a reseller permit, it will notify the taxpayer of the proposed revocation in writing, stating the reasons for the proposed revocation. To contest the proposed revocation of the reseller permit, the taxpayer must file a written

response no later than twenty-one days after service of the department's written notice of the proposed revocation of the reseller permit.

(c) A Reseller Permit Appeal Petition form, or form for a response to the proposed revocation of a reseller permit is available at (~~http://dor.wa.gov~~) dor.wa.gov or by calling 1-800-647-7706. The completed form should be mailed or faxed to the department at:

Washington State Department of Revenue  
Taxpayer Account Administration  
P.O. Box 47476  
Olympia, WA 98504-7476  
Fax: 360-705-6733

(d) A presiding officer, who will be either the assistant director of the taxpayer account administration division or such other person as designated by the director of the department (director), will conduct brief adjudicative proceedings. The presiding officer for brief adjudicative proceedings will have agency expertise in the subject matter but will not otherwise have participated in responding to the taxpayer's application for a reseller permit or in the decision to propose revocation of the taxpayer's reseller permit.

(e) As part of the appeal, the taxpayer or the taxpayer's representative may present written documentation and explain the taxpayer's view of the matter. The presiding officer may request additional documentation from the taxpayer or the department and will designate the date by which the documents must be submitted.

(f) No witnesses may appear to testify.

(g) In addition to the record, the presiding officer for brief adjudicative proceedings may employ agency expertise as a basis for decision.

(h) Within twenty-one days of receipt of the taxpayer's appeal of the denial of a reseller permit or proposed revocation of the reseller permit, the presiding officer will enter an initial order, including a brief explanation of the decision per RCW 34.05.485. All orders in these brief adjudicative proceedings will be in writing. The initial order will become the department's final order unless an appeal is filed with the department's (~~appeals~~) administrative review and hearings division in subsection (4) of this (~~section~~) rule.

**(4) Review of initial orders from brief adjudicative proceeding.** A taxpayer may request a review by the department of an initial order issued per subsection (3) of this (~~section~~) rule by filing a petition for review or by making an oral request for review with the department's (~~appeals~~) administrative review and hearings division within twenty-one days after the service of the initial order on the taxpayer. A form for an appeal of an initial order per subsection (3) of this (~~section~~) rule is available at (~~http://dor.wa.gov~~) dor.wa.gov. A request for review should state the reasons the review is sought. A taxpayer making an oral request for review may at the same time mail a written statement to the address below stating the reasons for the appeal and its view of the matter. The address, telephone number, and fax number of the (~~appeals~~) administrative review and hearings division are:

(~~Appeals~~) Administrative Review and Hearings Division, Reseller Permit Appeals  
Washington State Department of Revenue  
P.O. Box (~~47476~~) 47460

Olympia, WA ((98504-7476)) 98504-7460  
Telephone Number: ((1-800-647-7706)) 360-534-1335  
Fax: ((360-705-6733)) 360-534-1340

(a) A reviewing officer, who will be either the assistant director of the ((~~appeals~~)) administrative review and hearings division or such other person as designated by the director, will conduct brief adjudicative proceedings and determine whether the department's initial order issued per subsection (3) of this ((~~section~~)) rule was correctly based on the criteria set forth in RCW 82.32.780, WAC 458-20-102, and 458-20-10201. The reviewing officer will review the record and, if needed, convert the proceeding to a formal adjudicative proceeding.

(b) The agency record need not constitute the exclusive basis for the reviewing officer's decision. The reviewing officer will have the authority of a presiding officer.

(c) The order of the reviewing officer will be in writing and include a brief statement of the reasons for the decision, and it must be entered within twenty days of the petition for review. The order will include a notice that judicial review may be available. The order of the reviewing officer represents the final decision of the department.

(d) A request for administrative review is deemed denied if the department does not issue an order on review within twenty days after the petition for review is filed or orally requested.

(5) **Conversion of a brief adjudicative proceeding to a formal proceeding.** The presiding officer or reviewing officer may convert the brief adjudicative proceeding to a formal proceeding at any time on motion of the taxpayer, the department, or the presiding/reviewing officer's own motion.

(a) The presiding/reviewing officer will convert the proceeding when it is found that the use of the brief adjudicative proceeding violates any provision of law, when the protection of the public interest requires the agency to give notice to and an opportunity to participate to persons other than the parties, and when the issues and interests involved warrant the use of the procedures of RCW 34.05.413 through 34.05.479.

(b) When a proceeding is converted from a brief adjudication to a formal proceeding, the director may become the presiding officer or may designate a replacement presiding officer to conduct the formal proceedings upon notice to the taxpayer and the department.

(c) In the conduct of the formal proceedings, WAC 458-20-10002 will apply to the proceedings.

(6) **Court appeal.** Court appeal from the final order of the department is available pursuant to Part V, chapter 34.05 RCW. However, court appeal may be available only if a review of the initial decision has been requested under subsection (4) of this ((~~section~~)) rule and all other administrative remedies have been exhausted. See RCW 34.05.534.

(7) **Computation of time.** In computing any period of time prescribed by this ((~~section~~)) rule or by the presiding officer, the day of the act or event after which the designated period is to run is not to be included. The last day of the period is to be included, unless it is a Saturday, Sunday or a legal holiday, in which event the period runs until the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. When the period of time prescribed is less than seven days, intermediate Saturdays, Sundays and holidays are excluded in the compu-



tation. Service as discussed in subsection (8) of this ((section)) rule is deemed complete upon mailing.

(8) **Service.** All notices and other pleadings or papers filed with the presiding or reviewing officer must be served on the taxpayer, their representatives/agents of record, and the department.

(a) Service is made by one of the following methods:

(i) In person;

(ii) By first-class, registered or certified mail;

(iii) By fax and same-day mailing of copies;

(iv) By commercial parcel delivery company; or

(v) By electronic delivery pursuant to RCW 82.32.135.

(b) Service by mail is regarded as completed upon deposit in the United States mail properly stamped and addressed.

(c) Service by electronic fax is regarded as completed upon the production by the fax machine of confirmation of transmission.

(d) Service by commercial parcel delivery is regarded as completed upon delivery to the parcel delivery company, properly addressed with charges prepaid.

(e) Service by electronic delivery is regarded as completed on the date that the department electronically sends the information to the parties or electronically notifies the parties that the information is available to be accessed by them.

(f) Service to a taxpayer, their representative/agent of record, the department, and presiding officer must be to the address shown on the notice described in subsection (3)(a) of this ((section)) rule.

(g) Service to the reviewing officer must be to the ((appeals)) administrative review and hearings division at the address shown in subsection (4) of this ((section)) rule.

(h) Where proof of service is required, the proofs of service must include:

(i) An acknowledgment of service;

(ii) A certificate, signed by the person who served the document(s), stating the date of service; that the person did serve the document(s) upon all or one or more of the parties of record in the proceeding by delivering a copy in person to (names); and that the service was accomplished by a method of service as provided in this subsection.

(9) **Continuance.** The presiding officer or reviewing officer may grant a request for a continuance by motion of the taxpayer, the department, or on its own motion.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 14-03-081, filed 1/15/14, effective 2/15/14)

**WAC 458-20-273 Renewable energy system cost recovery.** (1) **Introduction.** This rule explains the renewable energy system cost recovery program provided in RCW 82.16.110 through ((82-16-130 {82.16.130})) 82.16.130. This program authorizes an incentive payment based on production to offset the costs associated with the purchase of renewable energy systems located in Washington state that generate electricity. Qualified renewable energy systems include:

- Solar energy systems;
- Wind generators; and

• Certain types of anaerobic digesters that process manure from livestock into biogas and dried manure using microorganisms in a closed oxygen-free container, in which the biogas (such as methane) fuels a generator that creates electricity.

(2) This rule is divided into eight different parts based on subject matter category. The eight parts to this rule are as follow:

- Part I - Definitions;
- Part II - Participation requirements;
- Part III - Application requirements;
- Part IV - General provisions;
- Part V - Computation of the amount of the incentive payment;
- Part VI - Manufactured in Washington state;
- Part VII - Tax issues;
- Part VIII - Appeal rights.

#### PART I - DEFINITIONS

The definitions in this part apply throughout this rule unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(101) **"Administrator"** means an owner and assignee of a community solar project defined in (103)(a) and (c) of this part, that is responsible for applying for the cost recovery incentive on behalf of the system's owners and performing such administrative tasks on behalf of the owners as may be necessary; such as receiving the cost recovery incentive payments, and allocating and paying appropriate amounts of such payments to the owners.

(102) **"Applicant"** has the following three meanings in this definition.

(a) For other than community solar projects, applicant means an individual, business, or local government that owns the renewable energy system that qualifies under the definition of "customer-generated electricity."

(b) For purposes of a community solar project defined in (103)(a) or (c) of this part, the administrator, defined in (101) of this part, is the applicant.

(c) For purposes of a utility-owned community solar project defined in (103)(b) of this part, the utility will act as the applicant for its ratepayers that provide financial support to participate in the project.

(103) **"Community solar project"** means any one of the three definitions, below:

(a) A solar energy system located in Washington state that is capable of generating up to seventy-five kilowatts of electricity and is owned by local individuals, households, nonprofit organizations, or nonutility businesses that is placed on the property owned in fee simple by a cooperating local governmental entity that is not in the light and power business or in the gas distribution business.

(b) A utility-owned solar energy system located in Washington state that is capable of generating up to seventy-five kilowatts of electricity and that is voluntarily funded by the utility's ratepayers where, in exchange for their financial support, the utility gives contributors a payment or credit on their utility bill for their share of the value of the electricity generated by the solar energy system.

(c) A solar energy system located in Washington state, placed on the property owned in fee simple by a cooperating local governmental entity that is not in the light and power business or in the gas distribution business, that is capable of generating up to seventy-five kilowatts of electricity, and that is owned by a company whose members

are each eligible for a cost recovery incentive payment for the same customer-generated electricity as defined in (105) of this part.

(i) The cooperating local governmental entity that owns the property on which the solar energy system is located may also be a member of the company.

(ii) A member may hold an interest in the company constituting ownership of either a portion of the solar energy system or a portion of the value of the electricity generated by the solar energy system, or both.

(104) For purposes of **"community solar project"** as defined in (103) of this part, the following definitions apply.

(a) **"Capable of generating up to seventy-five kilowatts of electricity"** means that the solar energy system will qualify if it generates seventy-five kilowatts of electricity or less. If the solar energy system or a community solar project produces more than seventy-five kilowatts the entire project is ineligible for the incentive payment program.

(b) **"Company"** means an entity that is:

(i)(A) A limited liability company created under the laws of Washington state;

(B) A cooperative formed under chapter 23.86 RCW; or

(C) A mutual corporation or association formed under chapter 24.06 RCW; and

(ii) Not a "utility" as defined in (g) of this part.

(iii) A limited partnership, trust, or other entity not listed in (b)(i)(A) through (C) of this part does not qualify as a "company."

(c) **"Local individuals, households, nonprofit organizations, or nonutility businesses"** mean two or more individuals, households, nonprofit organizations, or nonutility businesses that reside on a property or have a business located on a property within the service area of the light and power business where the renewable energy system is located.

(d) **"Nonprofit organization"** means an organization exempt from taxation under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 501 (c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, as of January 1, 2009.

(e) **"Owned in fee simple"** means the broadest property interest allowed by law.

(f) **"Solar energy system"** includes both a module-based solar energy system and a stirling converter-based solar energy system.

(g) **"Utility"** means a light and power business, an electric cooperative, or a mutual corporation that provides electricity service.

(105) **"Customer-generated electricity"** means a community solar project or the alternating current electricity that is generated from a renewable energy system located in Washington state, that is installed on an individual's, business', or local government's property and the property involved is served by a light and power business.

(a) Except for utility-owned community solar systems, a system located on a leasehold interest does not qualify under this definition.

(b) Except for a utility-owned solar energy system that is voluntarily funded by the utility's ratepayers, "customer-generated electricity" does not include electricity generated by a light and power business with greater than one thousand megawatt hours of annual sales or a gas distribution business.

(106) **"Local governmental entity"** means any unit of local government of Washington state.

(a) **What is an example of a local governmental entity?** A local governmental entity includes, but is not limited to:

- Counties;
- Cities;
- Towns;
- Municipal corporations;
- Quasi-municipal corporations;
- Special purpose districts;
- Public stadium authorities; or
- Public school districts.

(b) **What is not a local governmental entity?** "Local governmental entity" does not include a state, federal, or tribal governmental entity, such as a:

- State park;
- State-owned building;
- State-owned university;
- State-owned college;
- State-owned community college;
- Federal-owned building; and
- Tribal-owned building.

(107) **"Light and power business"** means the business of operating a plant or system of generation, production or distribution of electrical energy for hire or sale and/or for the wheeling of electricity for others.

(108) **"Gas distribution business"** means the business of operating a plant or system for the production or distribution for hire or sale of gas, whether manufactured or natural.

(109) **"Photovoltaic cell"** means a device that converts light directly into electricity without moving parts.

(110) **"Renewable energy system"** means:

- A solar energy system used in the generation of electricity;
- An anaerobic digester that processes livestock manure into biogas and dried manure using microorganisms in a closed oxygen-free container, in which the biogas (such as methane) fuels a generator that creates electricity; or
- A wind generator used for producing electricity.

(111) **"Solar energy system"** means any device or combination of devices or elements that rely upon direct sunlight as an energy source for use in the generation of electricity.

(112) **"Solar inverter"** means the device used to convert direct current to alternating current in a solar energy system.

(113) **"Solar module"** means the smallest nondivisible self-contained physical structure housing interconnected photovoltaic cells and providing a single direct current electrical output.

(114) **"Stirling converter"** means a device that produces electricity by converting heat from a solar source using a stirling engine.

#### PART II - PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

(201) Participation by a light and power business in this incentive payment program is voluntary.

(202) Any individual, business, local government, or participant in a qualifying community solar project that owns such a system or is a participant of a community solar project that owns such a system may participate in this incentive payment program.

(203) A state governmental entity, a federal governmental entity, or a tribal governmental entity cannot participate in the incentive payment program.

(204) **Who may receive an incentive payment?** Incentive payments may be received by:

- Customers of a light and power business that own a renewable energy system that produces "customer-generated electricity"; or
- Participants in a community solar project that owns a renewable energy system that produces "customer-generated electricity."

(205) **Must the owner of the property on which the renewable energy system is located ((be)) by a customer of the light and power business?** Yes, only renewable energy systems that produce "customer-generated electricity" located on interconnected properties owned by customers of the light and power business serving the area in which the system is located are eligible for participation in this incentive program.

(206) Electricity generated by the renewable energy system must be able to be transformed or transmitted for entry into or operated in parallel with electricity transmission and distribution systems.

(207) In the case of community solar projects, the property on which the renewable energy system is located is either:

- Owned in fee simple by a hosting local governmental entity; or
- Owned or leased by the utility that owns the system.

(208) The host of a community solar project must be:

• A customer of the light and power business serving the area in which the system is located; or

- The utility that owns the system located in its service area.

(209) The participants in a nonutility community solar project are not required to be customers of the light and power business serving the area in which the system is located but the local governmental entity hosting the community solar system must be a customer of that light and power business.

(210) Utility-owned community solar projects are voluntarily funded by the utility's ratepayers and only the utility's ratepayers may be participants.

(211) Eligible participants of a nonutility community solar project described under RCW 82.16.110 (2)(a)(i) are limited to local individuals, households, nonprofit organizations, or nonutility businesses. Therefore, to qualify:

• As "local" the participant must reside or have a business located on a property served by the same light and power business serving the area in which the system is located; and

• If two or more individuals are living together in one household with one customer account with the light and power business these individuals are in one household and though they may each individually participate in this program these same individuals living together in the one household will only receive one five thousand dollar annual limit.

(212) Eligible participants of a nonutility community solar project that are business entities, such as a limited liability company or a corporation, will be analyzed for participant eligibility and the five thousand dollar annual limit by looking through the business entity to the members or stockholders that own the business entity.

#### PART III - APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

(301) **To whom do I apply?** An applicant must apply to the light and power business serving the property on which the renewable energy system is located. The applicant applies for an incentive payment based on the measured customer-generated electricity during each fiscal year beginning on July 1st and ending on June 30th.

(302) **Do I need an approved certification before applying to the light and power business?** Before submitting the first application to the light and power business for the incentive payment allowed under this (~~section~~) rule, the applicant must submit to the department of revenue a certification in a form and manner prescribed by the department of revenue.

(a) There are two forms for this certification, found at the department of revenue's web site at (~~http://dor.wa.gov~~) dor.wa.gov, entitled:

- Community Solar Project Renewable Energy System Cost Recovery Certification; and

- Renewable Energy System Cost Recovery Certification.

(b) The department of revenue will evaluate these certifications and may request assistance from the climate and rural energy development center (also known as the Washington State University extension energy program) concerning technical equipment requirements.

(c) In the case of community solar projects:

- Only one certification can be obtained for each system;

- Applicants may rely upon a prior issued certification of the system;

- The administrator must apply for approval of the certification if it is a community solar project placed on property owned by a cooperating local government and owned by individuals, households, non-profit organizations, or nonutility businesses;

- The company acting as an administrator must apply for approval of the certification if it is a community solar project placed on property owned by a cooperating local government and owned by a company; and

- The utility acting as administrator must apply for approval of the certification if it is a utility-owned community solar project on property owned or leased by the utility.

(d) **Property purchased with existing system.** Except for community solar projects, if an applicant has just purchased a property with a certified renewable energy system, the applicant must submit a new certification to the department of revenue.

(e) **Additions or changes to an existing certified system.** If the owner of an existing certified system adds to or makes other changes to the system, then the owner must apply to the department of revenue for approval of a new certification.

(f) **Requirements of the certification.** The certification must contain, but is not limited to, the following information:

(i) The name and address of the applicant and location of the renewable energy system:

(A) The applicant must be the owner of the renewable energy system, the administrator of a community solar project, or the company that owns the system in a company-owned community solar project.

(B) If the applicant is an administrator of a community solar project, the certification must also include the current name and address of each of the participants in the community solar project.

(C) If the applicant is a company that owns a community solar project that is acting as an administrator, the certification must also include the current name and address of each member of the company that is a participant in the community solar project.

(ii) The applicant's tax registration number;

(iii) Confirmation that the electricity produced by the applicant meets the definition of "customer-generated electricity" and that the renewable energy system produces electricity with:

(A) A wind generator powered by blades manufactured in Washington state;

(B) A wind generator with an inverter manufactured in Washington state;

(C) A solar inverter manufactured in Washington state;

(D) A solar module manufactured in Washington state;

(E) A solar stirling converter manufactured in Washington state;

(F) Solar or wind equipment manufactured outside of Washington state; or

(G) An anaerobic digester which processes manure from livestock into biogas and dried manure using microorganisms in a closed oxygen-free container, in which the biogas (such as methane) fuels a generator that creates electricity.

(iv) Confirmation that the electricity can be transformed or transmitted for entry into or operation in parallel with the electricity transmission and distribution systems;

(v) The date that the local jurisdiction issued its final electrical permit on the renewable energy system; and

(vi) A statement that the applicant understands that this information is true, complete, and correct to the best of applicant's knowledge and belief under penalty of perjury.

(g) **Response from the department of revenue.** Within thirty days of receipt of the certification the department of revenue must notify the applicant whether the renewable energy system qualifies for an incentive payment under this ~~((section))~~ rule. This notification may be delivered either by mail or electronically as provided in RCW 82.32.135.

(i) The department of revenue may consult with the climate and rural energy development center (also known as the Washington State University extension energy program) for technical advice regarding the renewable energy system and its components.

(ii) System certifications and the information contained therein are subject to disclosure under RCW 82.32.330 (3)(1).

(h) **What happens if the department of revenue notifies me that the original certification does not qualify for an incentive payment or provides me notice of intent to revoke approval of a certification?** The department of revenue may deny or revoke the approval of a system's certification and you may appeal this final determination. The appeal provisions under Part VIII of this rule apply here.

(303) **How often do I apply to the light and power business?** You must annually apply by August 1st of each year to the light and power business serving the location of your renewable energy system. The incentive payment applied for covers the production of electricity by the system between July 1st and June 30th of each prior fiscal year.

(304) **What about the application to the light and power business?** The department of revenue has two application forms for use by customers when applying for the incentive payment with their light and power business. These applications found at the department of revenue's web site at (~~www.dor.wa.gov~~) dor.wa.gov, are entitled:

- Community Solar Project Renewable Energy System Cost Recovery Annual Incentive Payment Application; and
- Renewable Energy System Cost Recovery Annual Incentive Payment Application.

However, individual light and power businesses may create their own forms or use the department of revenue's form in conjunction with their additional addendums.

(a) **Information required on the application to the light and power business.** The application must include, but is not limited to, the following information:

(i) The name and address of the applicant and location of the renewable energy system:

(A) If the applicant is an administrator of a community solar project, the application must also include the current name and address of each of the participants in the community solar project.

(B) If the applicant is a company that owns a community solar project that is acting as an administrator, the application must also include the current name and address of each member of the company that is a participant in the community solar project.

(C) If the applicant is the utility involved with a utility-owned community solar project that is acting as an administrator, the application must also include the current name and address of each customer-ratepayer participating in the community solar project.

(ii) The applicant's tax registration number;

(iii) The date of the notification from the department of revenue stating that the renewable energy system is eligible for the incentives under this ~~((section))~~ rule;

(iv) A statement of the amount of gross kilowatt-hours generated by the renewable energy system in the prior fiscal year; and

(v) A statement that the applicant understands that this information is provided to the department of revenue in determining whether the light and power business correctly calculates its credit allowed for customer incentive payments and that the statements are true, complete, and correct to the best of applicant's knowledge and belief under penalty of perjury.

(b) **Light and power business response.** Within sixty days of receipt of the incentive payment application the light and power business serving the location of the system must notify the applicant in writing whether the incentive payment will be authorized or denied.

(i) The light and power business may consult with the climate and rural energy development center (also known as the Washington State University extension energy program) to receive technical advice regarding this incentive payment program.

(ii) Incentive payment applications and the information contained therein are subject to disclosure under RCW 82.32.330 (3)(1).

(c) **Light and power business may verify whether your renewable energy system's generated electricity can be transformed or transmitted for entry into or operation in parallel with the electricity transmission and distribution systems.** If your light and power business finds your renewable energy system's generated electricity cannot be transformed or transmitted for entry into or operation in parallel with the electricity transmission and distribution systems, then the determination by the light and power business will be controlling. The fact that the system has received a certification for this incentive program has no impact on this determination.

(305) **What are the procedures an applicant and their light and power business follow in setting up incentive payments?** This ~~((section))~~ rule first discusses procedures an applicant follows when requesting that the light and power businesses set up an applicant's incentive payments and then discusses the procedures the light and power business follows.

(a) **Steps an applicant must take if the light and power business is voluntarily participating in the incentive program include, but are not limited to:**



- Submitting an application to the light and power business that serves the property where the renewable energy system is located;
- Submitting to the light and power business proof that the applicant's renewable energy system certification was approved by the department of revenue for the incentive payment program;
- Submitting to the light and power business a copy of the approved certification and letter from the department of revenue; and
- Signing an agreement that the light and power business will provide to the applicant.

(b) **Steps the applicant's local light and power business must take if it is voluntarily participating in the incentive program include, but are not limited to:**

- Measure the system's annual gross production by the light and power business' standard operating procedure;
- Processing the annual incentive payment;
- Notifying the applicant within sixty days whether the incentive payment is authorized or denied;
- Calculating annual incentive payments based on the system's measured annual gross production; and
- Paying the applicant's incentive payment on or before December 15th.

The light and power business may pay the applicant's incentive payment by either sending a check or crediting the applicant's account. However, if the applicant is a net generator, that applicant must be paid by check.

(306) **How may the procedures differ when dealing with a utility-owned solar energy system?** A utility-owned community solar project is voluntarily funded by ratepayers of the specific utility offering the program. A utility for purposes of this incentive program is a specific type of light and power business, electric cooperative, or mutual corporation that provides retail electric service to customers. A light and power business, electric cooperative, or mutual corporation that generates electricity but only sells power to wholesale customers does not qualify as a utility for this incentive program. Only customer-ratepayers of that utility may participate in the program. In exchange for a customer's support, the utility gives contributors a payment or credit on their utility bills for the value of the electricity produced by the project. It is important that the customer-ratepayers realize when contributing to this program, they are in effect investing in the utility to receive a stated "value." This value is defined in the agreement between the customer-ratepayers and the utility and this agreement is a contract. Customer-ratepayers need to protect their interest in this investment the same as a person would in any other investment.

(307) **What is the formal agreement between the applicant and the light and power business?** The formal agreement between the applicant and the light and power business serving the property governs the relationship between the parties. This document may:

- Contain the necessary safety requirements and interconnection standards;
- Allow the light and power business the contractual right to review the applicant's substantiation documents for four years, upon five working days' notice;
- Allow the light and power business the contractual right to assess against the applicant, with interest, for any overpayment of incentive payments;

- Delineate any extra metering costs for an electric production meter to be installed on the applicant's property;
- Contain a statement allowing the department of revenue to send proof of the applicant's system certification electronically to applicant's light and power business, which will include the applicant's department of revenue taxpayer's identification number;
- Contain other information required by the light and power business to effectuate and properly process the applicant's incentive payment; and
- In the case of a utility-owned solar energy system, contain a detailed description of the "value" the customer-ratepayer will receive in consideration of the financial support given to the utility.

PART IV - GENERAL PROVISIONS

(401) **Is there a time limitation of when incentive payment may be made for a system's generated electricity?** Yes, incentive payments may only be made for kilowatt-hours generated on or after July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2020. The right to earn tax credits under this ((~~section~~)) rule expires June 30, 2020. Credits may not be claimed after June 30, 2021.

(402) **Who must own the property on which the renewable energy system is located to qualify for incentive payments?** The answer depends on whether the renewable energy system is singly owned or community owned.

(a) Single-owned systems, meaning systems owned by individuals, businesses, and a local governmental entity that is not in the light and power business, must be located on property owned by the same person that owns the system. Thus, single-owned systems must have a unity of ownership between the owned property on which the system is located and the owned system.

(b) There are three types of community solar projects that have different property ownership requirements.

- The standard community solar project described by RCW 82.16.110 (2)(a)(i) and the company-owned community solar project described in RCW 82.16.110 (2)(a)(iii) require that the hosting local governmental entity own the property on which the system is located in fee simple. A solar energy system located on property owned in fee simple by a cooperating local governmental entity that is owned by local individuals, households, nonprofit organizations, nonutility businesses or companies will qualify for the incentive program.

- The utility-owned community solar project described in RCW 82.16.110 (2)(a)(ii) requires that the utility either own or lease the property on which the system is located.

(403) **Must the renewable energy system be owned or can it be leased?** The renewable energy system must be owned by the customer receiving the incentive payments from a single-owned system's generated electricity or by the community solar project's company, utility owner, or local owners receiving the incentive payments from a community-owned system's generated electricity. Leasing a renewable energy system does not constitute ownership.

(404) **May the purchase of the renewable energy system be financed?** Yes, the purchase of a renewable energy system through financing that uses standard practices of the lending industry will not disqualify the owner from participation in this incentive program.

(405) **Must you keep records regarding your incentive payments?** Applicants receiving incentive payments must keep and preserve, for a

period of five years, suitable records as may be necessary to determine the amount of incentive applied for and received.

(a) **Examination of records.** Such records must be open for examination at any time upon notice by the light and power business that made the payment or by the department of revenue.

(b) **Overpayment.** If upon examination of any records or from other information obtained by the light and power business or department of revenue it appears that an incentive has been paid in an amount that exceeds the correct amount of incentive payable, the light and power business may assess against the person the amount found to have been paid in excess of the correct amount of the incentive payment. Interest will be added to that amount in the manner that the department of revenue assesses interest upon delinquent tax under RCW 82.32.050.

(c) **Underpayment.** If it appears that the amount of incentive paid is less than the correct amount of incentive payable, the light and power business may authorize additional payment.

(406) **Do condominiums or community solar projects need more than one meter?** No, the requirement of measuring the kilowatt hours of customer-generated electricity for computing the incentive payments only requires one meter for the renewable energy system, not one meter for each owner, in the case of a condominium, or each applicant, in the case of a community solar project. Thus for example, in the case of a renewable energy system on a condominium with multiple owners, while such a system would not qualify as a community solar project, only one meter is needed to measure the system's gross generation and then each owner's share can be calculated by using each owner's percentage of ownership in the condominium building on which the system is located. With regard to a community solar project, only one meter is needed to measure the system's gross generation and each applicant's share in the project can be calculated by each applicant's interest in the project.

(407) **When community solar projects are located on the same property, how do you determine whether their systems are one combined system or separate systems for determining the seventy-five kilowatts limitation?** In determining whether a community solar project's system is capable of generating more than seventy-five kilowatts of electricity when more than one community solar project is located on one property, the department of revenue will treat each project's system as separate from the other projects if there are:

- Separate meters;
- Separate inverters;
- Separate certification documents submitted to the department of revenue; and
- Separate owners in each community solar project, except for utility-owned systems that are voluntarily funded by the utility's ratepayers, which must have a majority of different ratepayers funding each system.

(408) **Are the renewable energy system's environmental attributes transferred?** The environmental attributes of the renewable energy system belong to the applicant, and do not transfer to the state or the light and power business upon receipt of the investment cost recovery incentive. RCW 82.16.120(8). An environmental attribute is often designated as a renewable energy credit and gives the holder of the credit the benefits from the generation of the new power from a renewable source. In the case of utility-owned community solar system, the utility involved owns the environmental attributes of the renewable energy system.

(501) **How is an incentive payment computed?** The computation for the incentive payment involves a base rate that is multiplied by an economic development factor determined by the amount of the system's manufacture in Washington state to determine the incentive payment rate. The incentive payment rate is then multiplied by the system's gross kilowatt-hours generated to determine the incentive payment.

(a) **Determining the base rate.** The first step in computing the incentive payment is to determine the correct base rate to apply, specifically:

- Fifteen cents per economic development kilowatt-hour; or
- Thirty cents per economic development kilowatt-hour for community solar projects.

If requests for incentive payments exceed the amount of funds available for credit to the participating light and power business, the incentive payments must be reduced proportionately.

(b) **Economic development factors.** For the purposes of this computation, the base rate paid for the investment cost recovery incentive may be multiplied by the following economic development factors:

(i) For customer-generated electricity produced using solar modules or stirling converters manufactured in Washington state, two and four-tenths;

(ii) For customer-generated electricity produced using a solar or a wind generator equipped with an inverter manufactured in Washington state, one and two-tenths;

(iii) For customer-generated electricity produced using an anaerobic digester, or by other solar equipment, or using a wind generator equipped with blades manufactured in Washington state, one; and

(iv) For all other customer-generated electricity produced by wind, eight-tenths.

(c) **What if a renewable energy system has both a module and inverter manufactured in Washington state, both a stirling converter and inverter manufactured in Washington state, or both blades and inverter manufactured in Washington state?** In these three situations the above-described economic development factors are added together. For example, if your system is solar and has both solar modules and an inverter manufactured in Washington state, you would compute your incentive payment by using the factor three and six-tenths (3.6) (computed 2.4 plus 1.2). Therefore, you would multiply either the fifteen cent or thirty cent base rate by three and six-tenths (3.6) to get your incentive payment rate and then multiple this by the gross kilowatt-hours generated to get the incentive payment amount. The incentive payment is calculated the same in a situation involving a solar stirling converter and inverter, resulting in a combined factor of three and six-tenths (3.6) (computed 2.4 plus 1.2). However, if your wind generator has both blades and an inverter manufactured in Washington state you would multiply the fifteen cent base rate by two and two-tenths (2.2) (computed 1.0 plus 1.2) to calculate your incentive payment rate and then multiply this by the kilowatt-hours generated for the incentive payment amount.

(d) **Tables for use in computation.** The following tables describe the computation of the incentive payment using the appropriate base rate and then multiplying it by the applicable economic development factors to determine the incentive payment rate. The incentive payment rate is then multiplied by the gross kilowatt-hours generated. The actual incentive payment you receive must be computed using your renewa-

ble energy system's actual measured gross electric kilowatt-hours generated.

**Annual Incentive Payment Calculation Table for Noncommunity Projects**

| <b>Customer-generated power applicable factors</b>  | <b>Base rate (0.15) multiplied by applicable factor equals incentive payment rate</b> | <b>Gross kilowatt-hours generated</b> | <b>Incentive payment amount equals incentive payment rate multiplied by kilowatt-hours generated</b> |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| Solar modules or solar stirling converters manufactured in Washington state<br><b>Factor: 2.4</b> (two and four-tenths)                         | \$0.36  |                                       |  |
| Solar or wind generating equipment with an inverter manufactured in Washington state<br><b>Factor: 1.2</b> (one and two-tenths)                 | \$0.18  |                                       |  |
| Anaerobic digester or other solar equipment or wind generator equipped with blades manufactured in Washington state<br><b>Factor: 1.0</b> (one) | \$0.15  |                                       |  |
| All other electricity produced by wind<br><b>Factor: 0.8</b> (eight-tenths)   | \$0.12  |                                       |  |
| Both solar modules and inverters manufactured in Washington state.<br><b>Factor: (2.4 + 1.2) = 3.6</b>  | \$0.54  |                                       |  |
| Wind generator equipment with both blades and inverter manufactured in Washington state.<br><b>Factor: (1.0 + 1.2) = 2.2</b>                    | \$0.33  |                                       |  |

**Annual Incentive Payment Calculation Table for Community Solar Projects**

| <b>Customer-generated power applicable factors</b>  | <b>Base rate (0.30) multiplied by applicable factor equals incentive payment rate</b> | <b>Gross kilowatt-hours generated</b> | <b>Incentive payment amount equals incentive payment rate multiplied by kilowatt-hours generated</b> |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| Solar modules or solar stirling converters manufactured in Washington state<br><b>Factor: 2.4</b> (two and four-tenths) | \$0.72  |                                       |  |
| Solar equipment with an inverter manufactured in Washington state<br><b>Factor: 1.2</b> (one and two-tenths)            | \$0.36  |                                       |  |
| Other solar equipment<br><b>Factor: 1.0</b> (one)   | \$0.30  |                                       |  |
| Both solar modules and inverters manufactured in Washington state.<br><b>Factor: (2.4 + 1.2) = 3.6</b>                  | \$1.08  |                                       |  |

(e) **Examples to illustrate how incentive payments are calculated.** Assume for the following ten examples that the renewable energy system involved generates 2,500 kilowatt-hours.

(i) If a noncommunity solar energy system has a module or solar stirling converter manufactured in Washington state combined with an inverter manufactured out-of-state the computation would be as follows:  $(0.15 \times 2.4) \times 2,500 = \$900.00$ .

(ii) If a noncommunity solar energy system has an out-of-state module or solar stirling converter combined with an inverter manufactured in Washington state the computation would be as follows:  $(0.15 \times 1.2) \times 2,500 = \$450.00$ .

(iii) If a noncommunity solar energy system has modules or solar stirling converters manufactured in Washington state combined with an inverter manufactured in Washington state the computation would be as follows:  $(0.15 \times (2.4 + 1.2)) \times 2,500 = \$1,350.00$ .

(iv) If wind generator equipment has out-of-state blades combined with an inverter manufactured in Washington state the computation would be as follows:  $(0.15 \times 1.2) \times 2,500 = \$450.00$ .

(v) If wind generator equipment has blades manufactured in Washington state combined with an out-of-state inverter the computation would be as follows:  $(0.15 \times 1.0) \times 2,500 = \$375.00$ .

(vi) If wind generator equipment has both blades and an inverter manufactured in Washington state the computation would be as follows:  $(0.15 \times (1.0 + 1.2)) \times 2,500 = \$825.00$ .

(vii) If wind generator equipment has both out-of-state blades and an out-of-state inverter the computation would be as follows:  $(0.15 \times 0.8) \times 2,500 = \$300.00$ .

(viii) If a community solar energy system has modules or a solar stirling converter manufactured in Washington state combined with an out-of-state inverter the computation would be as follows:  $(0.30 \times 2.4) \times 2,500 = \$1,800.00$ .

(ix) If a community solar energy system has out-of-state modules or solar stirling converters combined with an inverter manufactured in Washington state the computation would be as follows:  $(0.30 \times 1.2) \times 2,500 = \$900.00$ .

(x) If a community solar energy system has both modules or solar stirling converters manufactured in Washington state combined with an inverter manufactured in Washington state the computation would be as follows:  $(0.30 \times (2.4 + 1.2)) \times 2,500 = \$2,700.00$ .

(502) **Is there an annual limit on an incentive payment to one payee?** There is an annual limit on an incentive payment.

(a) **Applicant limit.** No individual, household, business, or local governmental entity is eligible for incentive payments of more than five thousand dollars per year. If two or more individuals are living together in one household with one customer account with the light and power business these individuals are in one household and though they may each individually participate in this program these same individuals living together in one household will only receive one five thousand dollar annual limit.

(b) **Community solar projects.**

- Each owner or member of a company in a community solar project located on a cooperating local government's property is eligible for an incentive payment, not to exceed five thousand dollars per year, based on their ownership share.

- Each ratepayer in a utility-owned community solar project is eligible for an incentive payment, not to exceed five thousand dollars

per year, in proportion to their contribution resulting in their share of the value of electricity generated.

- Eligible participants of a community solar project that are business entities, such as a limited liability company or a corporation, will be analyzed for purposes of the five thousand dollar annual limit by looking through the business entity to the members or stockholders that own the business entity and combining the owners' interests from all eligible systems under this incentive program when determining whether any of the individual owners exceed their five thousand dollar annual limit.

PART VI - MANUFACTURED IN WASHINGTON STATE

(601) **What constitutes manufactured in Washington?**

(a) For a solar inverter, solar module, stirling converter, or wind blade to qualify as manufactured in Washington state, the manufactured component must meet these definitions.

- "Solar inverter" means the device used to convert direct current to alternating current in a solar energy system.

- "Solar module" means the smallest nondivisible self-contained physical structure housing interconnected photovoltaic cells and providing a single direct current electrical output. The lamination of the modules must occur in Washington state.

- "Stirling converter" means a device that produces electricity by converting heat from a solar source utilizing a stirling engine.

- "Wind blade" is the portion of the rotor component of wind generator equipment that converts wind energy to low speed rotational energy.

(b) Is combining products manufacturing? When determining whether an inverter, module, stirling converter, or blades are manufactured in Washington the department of revenue considers various factors in determining if a person combining various items into a single package is engaged in a manufacturing activity. Any single one of the following factors is not considered conclusive evidence of a manufacturing activity:

(i) The ingredients are purchased from various suppliers;

(ii) The person combining the ingredients attaches his or her own label to the resulting product;

(iii) The ingredients are purchased in bulk and broken down to smaller sizes;

(iv) The combined product is marketed at a substantially different value from the selling price of the individual components; and

(v) The person combining the items does not sell the individual items except within the package.

(602) **How can an applicant determine the system's level of manufacture in Washington state?** The manufacturer must request approval from the department of revenue of its certification that the manufacturer's product, such as an inverter, module, stirling converter, or wind blade qualifies as made in Washington state. The manufacturer must supply the department of revenue with a statement delineating the product's level of manufacture in Washington state, signed under penalty of perjury.

(a) **Field visit to view manufacturing process.** The department of revenue will perform a field visit to view the manufacturing process for the product, which may also include, but is not limited to:

- An inspection of the process by an engineer or other technical expert;

- Testing and evaluation of a product pulled off the production line;
- Review of purchase invoices to verify the vendor sources for the parts used in the manufacturing of the product;
- Inspection of the production line; and
- Requests for clarification concerning questions, if any, discovered during the inspection.

(b) **Approval or disapproval of manufacturer's certification.** The department of revenue will issue a written approval or disapproval of the manufacturer's certification of a product qualifying as made in Washington state.

(c) **Manufacturer's statement.** This manufacturer's statement must be specific as to what processes were carried out in Washington state to qualify the product for one or more of the multiplying economic development factors discussed in subsection (14) of this ~~(section)~~ rule. The manufacturer can request an approval of its certification from the department of revenue at its web address: (<http://dor.wa.gov>) [dor.wa.gov](http://dor.wa.gov).

(d) **Penalty of perjury.** The manufacturer's statement must be under penalty of perjury and specifically state that the manufacturer understands that the department of revenue will use the statement in deciding whether customer incentive payments and corresponding tax credits are allowed under the renewable energy system cost recovery incentive payment program.

(e) **Inspection of product's manufacturing process.** The department of revenue reserves the right to perform an inspection of the manufacturing processes for each product, such as an inverter, module, wind blade, or solar stirling converter, that has been previously certified as manufactured in Washington state. This is to verify that the product continues to qualify as manufactured in Washington state. This inspection will not occur more than once a year and will include a field visit as described in (a) of this subsection.

(f) **Document retention.** The applicant must retain this documentation for five years after the receipt of applicant's last incentive payment from the light and power business.

(g) **Denial or revocation of approval of certification.** The department of revenue may revoke the approval of certification that a product, such as an inverter, module, stirling converter, or wind blade is "made in Washington state" when it finds that the product does not qualify for certification as manufactured in Washington state.

The appeal provisions under Part VIII of this rule apply here.

(603) **What about guidelines and standards for manufactured in Washington?** The climate and rural energy development center at the Washington State University energy program may establish guidelines and standards for technologies that are identified as Washington manufactured and therefore most beneficial to the state's environment.

PART VII - TAX ISSUES REGARDING RENEWABLE ENERGY INCENTIVE PROGRAM

(701) **Does the department of revenue consider the incentive payment gross income subject to Washington state taxation?** The answer will depend on whether the electricity is generated by a singly owned system or a community solar system.

(a) **Are singly owned renewable energy systems subject to the B&O tax?** No. The incentive payments for the electricity generated by the singly owned systems are not taxable. This is because that person is not engaged in an activity with the object of gain, benefit, or ad-



vantage. All the electricity generated by the system is consumed by the system's owner on that person's own property. This is an energy conservation activity involving that person's own property.

**(b) Do incentive payments received for the electricity generated by a community solar project's system constitute gross income subject to the business and occupation tax?** Yes. The incentive payments for the electricity generated by the nonutility community solar systems are taxable. Nonutility community solar projects are engaged in a business activity because the project involves the object of gain, benefit, or advantage to the project's owners. The energy generated by the solar system is not consumed by the system owner at its property, but is instead purchased and consumed by the system's host at the host's property. The sole benefit to the system's owners is the income from the electricity generated. Therefore, all incentive payments received for the electricity generated by a community solar project's system constitute gross income subject to tax.

**(702) When must a nonutility community solar project register and file a return with the department?** A nonutility community solar project receiving incentive payments under the incentive program will need to register with the department of revenue unless its annual gross income is below the exemption amount for requiring registration. WAC 458-20-101(2) explains that a business whose gross income from all business activities is under the annual exemption amount is not required to register, so long as other requirements are met.

**(703) If a community solar project has gross income above the annual exclusion amount and is required to register, does it then owe tax?** Even some community solar projects that receive gross income above the annual exclusion amount or are otherwise required to register with the department may still not owe any tax. This is because of the small business credit provided by RCW 82.04.4451 that applies to the business and occupation tax. Consequently, many smaller community solar projects may be able to apply the small business tax credit to offset their business and occupation tax liability.

**(704) If I owe business and occupation tax after applying the small business credit, what is the tax category?** If there is gross income in excess of the small business credit, the category under the business and occupation tax would be "service and other."

**(705) What other payments received by a nonutility community solar project are gross income possibly subject to tax?** The payments from sales of electricity to the hosting local governmental entity that a nonutility community solar project receives for the consumption by the hosting local governmental entity of the electricity generated by the community-solar system is gross income to the community solar project. The amount of the gross income from the host's consumption of the system's generated electricity is the value of that electricity. This is the contractually agreed value between the parties or the equivalent retail value generally charged by the light and power business serving the property. This gross income is subject to the public utility tax since it is income from a system for the generation of electrical energy. RCW 82.16.010 and 82.16.020. However, the public utility tax has an exemption amount described at RCW 82.16.040 that may apply.

**(706) Are the fees paid by members of the company in a company-owned community solar project subject to state taxation?** Yes, administrative fees that the company in a company-owned community solar project charges its members is gross income for the company. This

gross income is subject to business and occupation tax under the "service and other" category.

(707) **Are the sale of renewable energy credits subject to state tax?** Yes, the sale of renewable energy credits constitute gross income subject to tax.

(a) If the renewable energy credits created by the community solar system are sold together with the electricity generated by the system, then both the electricity and renewable energy credits will be subject to public utility tax.

(b) However, if the sale of the renewable energy credits and system's generated electricity are sold and priced separately, then the renewable energy credits will be subject to the business and occupation tax under the "service and other" category and the generated electricity will be subject to public utility tax.

(708) **Is a nonutility community solar project subject to the leasehold excise tax?** Yes. The use of the local government's property that is hosting the community solar system is subject to leasehold excise tax, which is measured by the contract rent. This is because there is a private lease of publicly owned real property. Leasehold excise tax is in lieu of the property tax. Leasehold excise tax is measured by the maximum attainable contract rent received by the lessor paid for use of the public property. Contract rent is the amount of consideration due as payment for the leasehold interest. Consideration does not have to be in the form of cash. RCW 82.29A.020 and 82.29A.030.

(709) **What is the relationship between the department of revenue and the light and power business under this program?** The department of revenue is not regulating light and power businesses; it is only administering a tax credit program relating to the public utility tax. Therefore, for purposes of this incentive payment program, the department of revenue will generally focus its audit of light and power businesses to include, but not be limited to, whether:

- Claimed credit amount equals the amount of the total incentive payments made during the fiscal year;
- Each individual incentive payment is properly calculated;
- Payment to each applicant or participant in a community solar project is proportionally reduced by an equal percentage if the limit of total allowed credits is reached;
- Applicant payments are based on measured gross production of the renewable energy systems; and
- The credit and incentive payment limitations have not been exceeded.

(710) **Is the light and power business allowed a tax credit for the amount of incentive payments made during the year?** A light and power business will be allowed a credit against its public utility taxes in an amount equal to incentive payments made to its customers or participants in a nonutility community solar project in any fiscal year under RCW 82.16.120. The following restrictions apply:

- The credit must be taken in a form and manner as required by the department of revenue.
- The credit for the fiscal year may not exceed one-half percent of the light and power business' taxable power sales due under RCW 82.16.120 (1)(b) or one hundred thousand dollars, whichever is greater.
- Incentive payments to applicants in a utility-owned community solar project as defined in RCW 82.16.110 (2)(a)(ii) may only account for up to twenty-five percent of the total allowable credit. This

means that the amount of the light and power business's credit on its public utility tax made on production from all utility-owned community solar projects in total may not exceed twenty-five percent of the fiscal year limitation of one-half percent of the light and power business's taxable power sales due under RCW 82.16.020 (1)(b) or one hundred thousand dollars, whichever is greater. Thus, for example, if a light and power business's taxable power sales are six million dollars, the maximum available credit is one hundred thousand dollars, which is greater than one-half percent of the six million dollar taxable power sales. Of that one hundred thousand dollar credit limit, the maximum amount of incentive payments to applicants in a utility-owned solar project is twenty-five thousand dollars.

- Incentive payments to participants in a company-owned community solar project as defined in RCW 82.16.110 (2)(a)(iii) may only account for up to five percent of the total allowable credit. This means that the amount of the light and power business's credit on its public utility tax made on production from all company-owned community solar projects in total may not exceed five percent of the fiscal year limitation of one-half percent of the light and power business's taxable power sales due under RCW 82.16.020 (1)(b) or one hundred thousand dollars, whichever is greater. Thus, for example, if a light and power business has thirty million dollars in taxable power sales, the maximum total tax credit available to the light and power business is one hundred fifty thousand dollars. Of this one hundred fifty thousand dollar credit limit, the maximum tax credit that the light and power business can claim relative to incentive payments to participants in a company-owned community solar project is seven thousand five hundred dollars. Alternatively, the maximum tax credit that the light and power business can claim relative to incentive payments to applicants in a utility-owned solar project is thirty-seven thousand five hundred dollars.

**Computation examples.** The following table provides:

| Taxable power sales by the light and power business | Maximum tax credit (greater of .5% of total taxable power sales or \$100,000) | Maximum amount of tax credit available for incentive payments in a utility-owned community solar project | Maximum amount of tax credit available for incentive payments in a company-owned community solar project |
|---|---|--|--|
| \$5,000,000   | \$100,000   | \$25,000   | \$5,000  |
| \$50,000,000  | \$250,000   | \$62,500   | \$12,500   |
| \$500,000,000                                       | \$2,500,000   | \$625,000  | \$125,000  |

- The credit may not exceed the tax that would otherwise be due under the public utility tax described in chapter 82.16 RCW. Refunds will not be granted in the place of credits.

- Expenditures not used to earn a credit in one fiscal year may not be used to earn a credit in subsequent years.

(711) **What if a light and power business claims an incentive payment in excess of the correct amount?** For any light and power business that has claimed credit for amounts that exceed the correct amount of the incentive payable under RCW 82.16.120, the amount of tax against which credit was claimed for the excess payments will be immediately due and payable.

- The department of revenue will assess interest but not penalties on the taxes against which the credit was claimed.

- Interest will be assessed at the rate provided for delinquent excise taxes under chapter 82.32 RCW, retroactively to the date the credit was claimed, and will accrue until the taxes against which the credit was claimed are repaid.

PART VIII - APPEALS RIGHTS

(801) **What are the appeal rights under the renewable energy incentive payment program?** There are four different types of actions that could result in a right to an appeal. The four types of actions are the department of revenue:

- Denying a system's certification;
- Revoking a system's certification;
- Denying a manufacturer's certification of a product qualifying as made in Washington state; and
- Revoking a manufacturer's certification of a product qualifying as made in Washington state.

(a) **Same appeal procedures for all four types of action.** The denial or revocation of a certification, described above, are all subject to the same appeal procedures described below. All the appeals involving this renewable energy incentive program are conducted as formal adjudicative proceedings under RCW 34.05.413 through 34.05.476 and chapter 10-08 WAC.

(b) **File your appeal petition within thirty days of receiving notice of the department's action.** If you want to contest the department's action, you must file a timely appeal petition within thirty days of service of the notice of the agency action. RCW 34.05.010(19) defines "service" and includes both service by mail and personal service.

The notice issued by the department will provide you with an explanation of the department's reasons for the denial or revocation and advise you how you may appeal the decision if you disagree. The department's action will be final unless you file an appeal petition with the department within thirty days of service of the notice of the department's action. A form that may be used for contesting the action by the department is available from the department on its web site at (~~http://dor.wa.gov, entitled~~) dor.wa.gov, titled: Appeal Petition.

(802) **Presiding officer - Final order - Review.** For both a denial of an application for certification and a notice of intent to revoke a previously approved certification, the presiding officer of a formal adjudicative proceeding will be the director, department of revenue, or such person as the director may designate. The presiding officer, whether the director of the department of revenue or such person as the director has designated, will make the final decision and will enter a final order as provided in RCW 34.05.461 (1)(b).

(803) **Petitions for reconsideration.** RCW 34.05.470 governs petitions for reconsideration and provides petitions for reconsideration must be addressed to or delivered to the presiding officer at the address provided in the final order. The petition for reconsideration must be filed and served as required by WAC 10-08-110.

(804) **Judicial review.** Judicial review of the final order of the presiding officer is governed by RCW 34.05.510 through 34.05.598.