

## **Tips to Prepare Effective Public Testimony or Public Comment**

The following are suggestions for preparing effective public testimony or a written public comment in a Commission case.

### **1. Identify yourself and your relation to the docket.**

- Are you a customer of the affected utility?
- If commenting on a transmission line or power plant project, do you live in the project area?
- Do you operate a business that will be affected by the case?

### **2. Be specific about your concern.**

- If you are supportive of the proposal, please explain how the outcome benefits you.
- If you are concerned about effects on your quality of life, how your life will be affected?
- If you are concerned about environmental effects, who or what would be harmed if the environmental effects occur, and in what way?
- If you are concerned about effects on wildlife, what form of wildlife, and what are you concerned may happen?
- If you are concerned about a financial impact, how will the financial impact affect you? What will you need to personally change if the impact occurs?

### **3. Explain the basis for your opinion and knowledge of the issue.**

- Have you consulted similarly-situated members of the public?
- Have you done research, and if so, what did you research?
- Do you know of a similar outcome in a comparable situation?
- Do you have education or training in the subject on which you are commenting? Please specify.
- Have you consulted experts on the subject?
- Do you have firsthand knowledge of the effects of the proposal?

### **4. Propose an alternative or recommend no change.**

- If you do not like a planned construction site, propose a modification that would reduce or eliminate the impact you are concerned about.
- If you do not like a perceived environmental impact, propose a way to reduce or eliminate the impact.

- If you do not like a perceived effect on your quality of life, propose a way to reduce or eliminate the effect on your quality of life.
- If you believe there are no reasonable alternatives at this time, include your suggestions for next best steps.

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