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| Railbelt Reliability Council | | |

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN A DEVELOPMENT RULE

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1.0 PURPOSE & SCOPE

The RRC Public Participation in a Development Policy provides for public participation in the development of a proposed integrated resource plan, rule, tariff, or standard (collectively, “Products”) by the RRC.

This policy pertains to the RRC and interested members of the public who would like to participate in the development of a Product.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

| Term | Definition |
|----------|---|
| CEO | RRC chief executive officer |
| Manager | The CEO or their designated staff member to manage development of an integrated resource plan, rule, tariff, reliability standard, or standard |
| Products | Integrated resource plans, rules, tariffs, and standards |
| Railbelt | The geographic area of Alaska extending from the communities of Fairbanks and Delta Junction in the north, south to Homer and Seldovia, west to Tyonek, and east to Glacier View, Seward and Whittier, containing the service territories of Golden Valley Electric Association, Matanuska Electric Association, Chugach Electric Association, Homer Electric Association, and the City of Seward |
| RRC | Railbelt Reliability Council |

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3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES OF KEY PERSONNEL

| Title | Responsibilities |
|---------|--|
| Manager | The Manager will review petitions submitted under this rule. |

4.0 TYPES OF PARTICIPATION

The public may participate in the development of a Product as one of two types of participants.

1. **Approved Participant:** An Approved Participant is a member of the public who helps shape the development of a Product through active participation in a product development process. This type of participant will:
 - a. Have relevant qualifications as defined in Section 5.0;
 - b. After petitioning the RRC, be recommended by the Manager and confirmed by the CEO or their designee(s);
 - c. May have access to certain confidential information related to the development of a Product;
 - d. Fully participate in the development process, including in meetings; and
 - e. Fully review all relevant materials prior to each product development meeting.

2. **Public Commenter:** A Public Commenter is a member of the public who helps shape the development of a Product by providing oral or written comments in accordance with RRC rules and policies during the development process. To provide input, a member of the public:
 - a. Will not need to petition and be approved by the RRC;
 - b. Does not need specific qualifications; and
 - c. Will be limited to commenting about topics relevant to the proposed action.

The Public Comment & Meeting Attendance Policy (P-03) details Public Commenter engagement with the RRC.

5.0 APPROVED PARTICIPANT QUALIFICATIONS AND CRITERIA

Approved Participants are not required to be technical experts. However, specific qualifications and criteria must be met or considered.

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Minimum Qualifications: The Manager will evaluate petitions (see Section 6.0) to ensure the following qualifications are met. The applicant must

1. Be at least 19 years of age; and
2. Have an interest in an RRC development.

Additional Criteria: The Manager will consider the following criteria in assessing a petition:

1. The interests of the petitioner in the development of the Product;
2. The effect on the petitioner's interest in the Product to be developed;
3. The availability of other means by which the petitioner's interest may be protected and perspective may be addressed, recognizing the value of varied perspectives;
4. The extent to which the petitioner's interest will be represented by other development participants;
5. The extent to which the petitioner's participation may reasonably be expected to assist in the development of a sound record; and
6. The extent to which the petitioner's participation will broaden or delay the matter to be developed, including whether the petitioner has a willingness and ability to commit to expend all necessary time and effort to accomplish the relevant work.

Successful petitioners will be subject to the Ethical Conduct Rule (ER11) and the RRC Discrimination & Harassment Policy (P-01) and other RRC policies related to conduct.

6.0 PETITIONING TO BE AN APPROVED PARTICIPANT

6.1 Petition to Participate in a RRC Development

Any person wishing to participate in a product development as an Approved Participant who meets the qualifications in Section 5.0 must submit a petition. Petitions and submission instructions are located on the RRC website at www.akrrc.org. For petitions received at the beginning of a development, the RRC will respond in accordance with the product development schedule established by the Manager. For petitions received after a working group or committee is formed, the RRC will respond within 30 days of receiving a petition. The Manager will issue a written decision on whether to accept the petition and will provide the written decision to the petitioner through electronic mail or on paper. If a petition is denied, the petitioner may request a written explanation from the Manager within 15 days of receiving the Manager's initial written decision. The RRC must respond to such a request in writing within thirty (30) business days. A person whose petition is denied may appeal to the RRC as described in Section 6.2.

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6.2 Appealing a Denied Petition

A person whose petition has been denied may submit an appeal in writing by electronic mail or on paper to the RRC within 15 days of receiving the Manager's decision or the Manager's written explanation, whichever is later. The appeal should address the qualifications and criteria in Section 5.0 and any other information the person would like considered. An appeal form and submission instructions are available on the RRC website at www.akrrc.org

The RRC will decide an appeal within ten (10) business days, beginning the first business day after the RRC receives the appeal. The RRC will base its decision on the qualifications and criteria stated in Section 5.0 and any other relevant information provided in the appeal. The RRC will respond to the appeal with a written decision, delivered by electronic mail or on paper

7.0 REMOVAL OF AN APPROVED PARTICIPANT

The Manager may end an Approved Participant's participation in a development for any of the following reasons:

1. The Approved Participant has failed to attend at least 50% of regularly scheduled development meetings;
2. The Approved Participant's participation has disrupted or prevented completion of work; or
3. The Approved Participant has violated the Ethical Conduct Rule (ER11), the Discrimination & Harassment Policy (P-01), or other applicable RRC rules and policies.

An Approved Participant may be removed immediately from a meeting if they pose a threat to themselves or others or otherwise are violating RRC rules and policies.

To remove an Approved Participant from a development, the Manager must submit a written recommendation for removal to the CEO, or where the CEO is the Manager, for approval by the RRC Board of Directors and concurrently to the Approved Participant via electronic mail or on paper. The Approved Participant may respond in writing to the CEO or Board, as applicable, within 15 days of receiving the Manager's recommendation. The CEO or Board decision on the Manager's recommendation is a final decision that will be delivered in writing to the Approved Participant. A CEO or Board decision to remove an Approved Participant will be posted on the RRC website.

An Approved Participant who has been removed may reapply to participate in a development after twelve (12) months from the date of the CEO or Board decision on a Manager's recommendation for

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removal. Removal from participation in one development does not constitute removal from participation in all developments for which that person is approved.

8.0 NO COMPENSATION

8.1 No Compensation, Salary, Reimbursement, or Other Form of Payment

Approved Participants are not technical consultants and shall not receive from the RRC any compensation, salary, reimbursement, or any other form of payment for their work, participation, attendance, or any other time related to the person's participation.

8.2 Volunteer/No Employment Status

An Approved Participant in a development is a volunteer. An Approved Participant's participation in a product development shall not be construed as or constitute an employment relationship, partnership, joint venture, or agency relationship between the RRC and the participant. Participation under this rule shall not entitle that person to any control over the conduct of RRC business.

9.0 ACCESS TO CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

An Approved Participant may have the opportunity to gain access to confidential documents that are relevant to the development the person is approved to participate in through the petition process in the RRC Confidential Documents and Access Rule (ER4).

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