How to Prepare Effective Public Testimony or Public Comment

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

1. **Identify yourself and your relation to the docket.**
   - Are you a customer of the affected utility?
   - 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 concerned about effects on wildlife, what form of wildlife, and what are you concerned may happen?
   - If you are concerned about effects on your quality of life, what parts of your life will be impacted?
   - 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 a financial impact, how will the financial impact affect you? What will you need to change about your life if the impact occurs?

3. **Explain the basis for your opinion and knowledge.**
   - 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?
   - Have you consulted experts on the subject?

4. **Propose an alternative.**
   - If you do not like a planned construction site, propose a modification to the planned site 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 you are concerned about.
   - 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.

**More information**

If you have questions regarding how to submit testimony or file a written comment in a Commission docket, please contact the docket coordinator. If you do not know the docket coordinator for the docket on which you wish to comment, please call (608) 266-5481 or (800) 225-7729. Hearing or speech-impaired individuals may also use the Commission's TTY number; if calling from Wisconsin (800) 251-8345, if calling from outside Wisconsin (608) 267-1479. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations to participate should contact the docket coordinator.