

Item 1 - Public comment

Tom Long/TURN proposed that the CPUC's communications log coverage be expanded to include quasi-legislative cases.

Item 2 – Proposed communications reforms

- Update by Leuwam Tesfai, advisor to Commissioner Randolph on the reevaluation of the communications log:
 - Purpose: evaluate the transparency and usefulness of the communications log.
 - Two focus groups have been scheduled for January 2016. Invitations have been sent to external (including Mr. Long at TURN) and internal stakeholders. A short survey has been sent to participants to collect basic data on their use of the log.
 - CPUC IT department is engaged to advise and assist with technical modifications.
 - Report from the focus groups to Policy & Governance committee anticipated Feb. 2016
 - Commissioner Sandoval – Requested clarification about types of meetings to be included in the log, which parties are entities whose communications should be included, how to deal with unanticipated ex parte communications made verbally or via e-mail directly to Commissioners.
 - Commissioner Florio – Clarification of the rules will be beneficial. For example, parties regularly ask or state opinions about where an issue will be taken up. Both fall into gray areas, but the first could be called a procedural question while the second is closer to advocacy.
 - Commissioner Randolph – Noted challenge associated with including communications in quasi-legislative proceedings: parties do not have to report such communications, and so to include them in the communications log introduces new complications.
 - Executive Director Sullivan – Since directive rolled out in 2014, meetings are logged by Commissioner offices; briefly reviewed by Director Sullivan, and refreshed on the website weekly. Some differences exist in what Commissioner offices are reporting; have tended to report more than original directive requested. Management sees need for clear, consistent directive and practice about the communications log.

- Update by Jason Reiger, Assistant General Counsel, CPUC Legal Division on the requested guidance for how to consider clarifications of the ex parte rules:
 - Legal will draft a privileged memo for Commissioners about tradeoffs between a guidance document and actual rules changes. Topics to be addressed: one-way communications, procedural communications, and quiet time period.
 - Privileged memo to be distributed to Commissioners before January 27, 2016 mtg.
 - Legal also ready to perform ex parte trainings in 2016 as needed.
 - President Picker, Commissioner Peterman – requested regular refresher training on ex parte rules for Commissioners, advisors, and CPUC staff.