

**Commission Staff Guidance for Participation in the Coordinating Committee and related sub-committees**

In D. 15-10-028, the Commission authorized Commission Staff to participate in the Coordinating Committee.<sup>1</sup>

Commission Staff participation in the Coordinating Committee and related subcommittees regarding issues in scope in an open proceeding shall be guided by the following principles:

- Staff statements are not official Commission positions. Staff statements do not bind Commission decision-makers on substance or process
- Staff may provide stakeholders with informal guidance on, e.g., legislation, Commission procedure, Commission decisions and rulings, Commission guidance documents. For example if an IOU plans on filing an advice letter, staff can explain the normal timing associated with an advice letter
- Staff may provide information related to evaluation research including any programmatic recommendations that flow out of that research
- Staff may offer their own proposals or raise substantive concerns they perceive with stakeholder proposals and suggest remedies, after consulting with their management
- *However*, staff should not take a position on issues that become contentious among stakeholders and may not engage in “negotiated settlements” towards compromise positions
- Staff may not reveal any deliberative process information, such as ALJ, Commissioner Advisor or Commissioner thoughts and opinions on an issue
- Staff may not opine on how the Commission would vote
- Staff will track all of their recommendations and input, and make these transparent and available to the Assigned Commissioner and Administrative Law Judge when they review a stakeholder proposal.

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<sup>1</sup> “We authorize Commission Staff to participate in the coordinating committee. Commission Staff shall develop a proposed scope of participation. They are to work with Legal Division to ensure our compliance with relevant open meeting and ex parte laws, rules, and regulations. We will put a proposal out for comment. In the meantime, Commission Staff should limit input into the coordinating committee to high-level guidance.” See D.15-01-028, p. 73