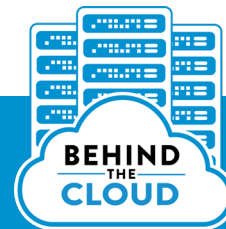


# BEHIND THE CLOUD

EPISODE 5 | QUICK REFERENCE



The process is public. That does not make it easy to enter.

## 01 THE BIG IDEA

Utility regulators decide data center related cases on a formal record, not on public opinion alone. The record is built through dockets, deadlines, and evidence, and it starts long before any public hearing.



The clock starts with the filing or an earlier planning process, NOT with the public hearing.

## 02 THE WAYS IN



**PUBLIC COMMENT:** The most accessible path. Puts local facts and concerns on the record, but does not grant party status.



**FORMAL INTERVENTION:** Party status with rights to discovery, testimony, and cross examination, plus real legal obligations.



**COORDINATION:** Working with an existing party, a consumer advocate, or a coalition instead of duplicating an intervention.



**OTHER FORUMS:** Technical conferences, workshops, listening sessions, and rulemakings offer additional entry points.

## 03 PREPARING TO PARTICIPATE

- **FIND THE DOCKET:** Search the commission site by utility, tariff, or project name, then read the notice and schedule first.
- **KNOW THE ADVOCATE:** A consumer advocate office may already represent ratepayer interests in the case.
- **BUILD A RECORD:** Connect each concern to data, analysis, and a named witness. Commissions decide on evidence, not press releases.
- **MONITOR EARLY:** Track filings, large-load tariffs, and rate cases before a hearing is announced. The clock starts at filing.

The key question: *"What's most effective for our purpose: public comment, formal intervention, or coordination with an existing party?"*

## 04 THE BIG QUESTIONS TO ANSWER

1. **DECISION:** What exactly is the commission being asked to approve, and what is outside this docket?
2. **DEADLINE:** When do the comment period and the intervention window close?
3. **EVIDENCE:** What data, analysis, or witness supports our concern?
4. **PATH:** Does comment, intervention, or coordination fit our objective and our capacity?

**BOTTOM LINE:** Utility dockets are public, but they do not wait. Knowing the docket, the deadline, and the right door in is what turns a community's concern into part of the record.