**Written Comment for March's Meeting**
**Conner Edwards**
reported via email *(Mon, 23 Mar 2026 at 1:42 PM)*

To:"Leach J. (PDC Commissioner) " <j.leach@pdc.wa.gov> +2 more
Cc:pdc@pdc.wa.gov
External Email
Commissioners:

This e-mail is my written comment for the March Regular Meeting of the PDC.

**1. Unpaid Penalties / Post-Hearing Compliance**

A longstanding issue at the agency has been respondents that simply don't pay the penalties that are assessed against them.

This is a significant issue because if respondents do not feel the "sting" of penalties, the filing community does not have much incentive to actually follow the applicable rules.

I recently ran a data query to see if this problem had been improved in the last two years. I looked at cases that had been closed from 1/1/25 to 2/24/26 and had resulted in a final adjudicative order.

This yielded 397 cases and of those cases, only 226 respondents had paid the penalties that had been imposed. **The remaining 43% of respondents had not paid the penalties that had been assessed against them even though the deadline for doing so had passed.**

I have three points to make relating to this issue.

a. Why is the PDC/the PDC's collection agency not making more of an effort to get the respondents to pay these penalties? While I cannot say for certain, it seems likely that the collection agency may be looking at the extremely small penalties that the PDC imposes and determine that it is not worth the effort to try to engage in collection efforts.

b. Why doesn't the PDC, as part of adjudicating these cases, not impose a significantly higher suspended penalty to give filers greater incentive to pay the penalty that has been assessed and remain in compliance?

c. There seems to be a perpetual issue with respondents not getting e-mail notifications from the PDC. This happened at last week's BAP. A significant portion of this problem could be solved if the PDC asked for candidate's personal e-mail addresses as opposed to the candidate's campaign e-mail address during the registration process.

As a treasurer, I have found that the worst way to correspond with a campaign is to correspond with the campaign's e-mail address. It is not checked often (sometimes not checked at all) and it often goes "out of commission" if it is associated with the campaign website. In contrast, the best way to reach a campaign is usually to e-mail the candidate directly at their personal e-mail address because it is checked often by the person responsible for the campaign.

**2. Missing Commissioners**

To my knowledge, this March's meeting is the first meeting in the last 5 years where the agenda is informational only because the agency does not have a sufficient quorum to take any action.

Why has the Governor not appointed new Commissioners to fill the two vacant slots? What concrete actions is the agency actually taking to get new Commissioners to fill the vacant slots?

Best,
Conner Edwards
(425) 533-1677 cell