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7 **BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

8 IN RE

9 THE PETITION OF PEND OREILLE
10 TELEPHONE COMPANY FOR A RULE
11 EXEMPTION

DOCKET NO.

PETITION FOR EXEMPTION FROM WAC
480-123-110(5)

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13 COMES NOW, Pend Oreille Telephone Company d/b/a RTI (the "Company" or "Pend
14 Oreille"), by and through its attorney, Richard A. Finnigan, and petitions for an exemption from the
15 August 2nd filing date contained in WAC 480-123-110(5). This Petition is being filed pursuant to
16 WAC 480-07-110.

17 **BASIS FOR EXEMPTION**

18 The rules set forth in WAC 480-123-110(5) establishes August 2nd as the filing date to file a
19 petition for support to draw from the State Universal Service Communications Program fund. Due
20 to an unfortunate set of circumstances, Pend Oreille missed the August 2nd filing date. The
21 Company's outside consultant did not provide the needed material for the petition until shortly
22 before the filing deadline. Unfortunately, key Company people were absent from the Company's
23 office and the material was not actually available to those persons until after August 2nd, 2020.

1 Pend Oreille was unaware that it could request an exemption from the filing date until Pend
2 Oreille was contacted by its attorney. Mr. Finnigan had been contacted by Commission Staff
3 inquiring as to why Pend Oreille had not filed a petition for support. Mr. Finnigan was not aware
4 that Pend Oreille had not filed a petition for support until he was contacted by Commission Staff.

5 On the basis of obtaining information from Commission Staff, Mr. Finnigan contacted the
6 Company employees and learned that because of communication errors a petition was not timely
7 filed. Mr. Finnigan informed the Company that there was a process that was available to request an
8 exemption from the rule deadline. The Company then instructed Mr. Finnigan to move forward and
9 the Company finished its petition for support.

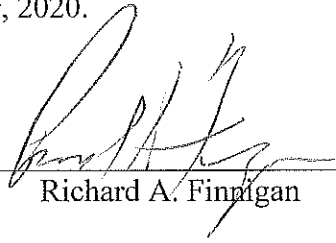
10 The petition for support is attached as Exhibit 1 to this Petition and has been filed at the
11 Commission on an electronic basis.

12 This Petition is consistent with the public interest since if Pend Oreille's Petition for Support
13 is allowed, funding will be made available to Pend Oreille for furthering broadband support. The
14 furtherance of broadband service in rural Washington is clearly within the public interest. Pend
15 Oreille has put together an aggressive construction program for meeting the Company's federal A-
16 CAM goals. In addition, Pend Oreille is committed to meeting the goals established by the
17 Commission under the Washington Universal Service Communications Program. See the
18 Declaration of Mr. Martell attached as Exhibit 2.

1 REQUEST FOR RELIEF

2 Based on the foregoing, Pend Oreille respectfully requests that it be granted an exemption
3 from the August 2nd filing date contained in WAC 480-123-110(5). Pend Oreille also requests that
4 the Commission consider the Petition for Support on its merits.

5 Respectfully submitted this 8th day of September, 2020.

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8 By  _____
Richard A. Finnigan