

STATE OF WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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July 18, 2014

NOTICE WITHDRAWING PENALTY

RE: New Century Telecom, Inc., Application for Mitigation of Penalty Assessment Docket UT-140902

TO ALL PARTIES:

On June 2, 2014, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) issued and served a Penalty Assessment against New Century Telecom, Inc. (New Century or Company) in the amount of \$1,000, alleging violations of WAC 480-120-382, which requires telecommunications companies to file annual reports and pay regulatory fees by May 1 each year.

On June 23, 2014, New Century filed a response to the penalty assessment, explaining that the Company believed its registration was revoked in 2012, and that it did not need to file an annual report for 2013 because it did not do any business in Washington. That same day, New Century filed a notice of cessation of service in Docket UT-141317. The cessation became effective at the Commission's July 10 open meeting.

On July 11, 2014, Commission Staff (Staff) filed a response recommending a reduced penalty of \$200 because the Company did not do business in Washington during the reporting year, and because the Company voluntarily cancelled its registration.

The Commission's primary objective in any enforcement action is to ensure compliance with a company's legal obligations; penalties both punish noncompliance and provide an incentive to comply in the future. The assessed penalty would further neither of these goals because the Company is no longer registered to provide telecommunications services in Washington. Despite Staff's recommendation of a reduced penalty, we have consistently withdrawn penalties assessed against those companies that voluntarily cancel

their Commission registrations or permits. The Commission therefore withdraws the penalty assessed against New Century based on the Company's cessation of service, effective July 10, 2014.

THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE that the penalty of \$1,000 assessed against New Century Telecom, Inc., is withdrawn and Docket UT-140902 is closed.

GREGORY J. KOPTA Director, Administrative Law Division