



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
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April 4, 2014

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT
(By Monday, May 5, 2014)

NOTICE OF HEARING
(Thursday, May 15, 2014, at 1:30 p.m.)

Re: *Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission v. Washington Exchange Carrier Association, et al.*, Docket UT-971140

TO ALL PARTIES AND INTERESTED PERSONS:

On June 28, 2000, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) entered the Ninth Supplemental Order in this docket approving the Washington Exchange Carrier Association's (WECA) Washington Carrier Access Plan (Plan). The Plan covers WECA's operations in administering three pools of funds derived from rate elements for intrastate access charges, including the "universal service support pool" created in Docket U-85-23 ("Traditional USF"). Paragraph 4 of the Plan provides, "At such time as the legislature adopts legislation authorizing a new universal service program that applies to WECA's members and such new universal service plan has been implemented, the Plan shall be reviewed to determine if modifications are appropriate."

In 2013, the legislature adopted legislation authorizing a state universal communications services program (State USF Program).¹ The Commission has proposed rules in Docket UT-131239 to implement that program beginning July 1, 2014, as the statute requires. Pursuant to those rules, distributions from that program will include amounts that eligible WECA members otherwise would have received under the Traditional USF.

The Commission has reviewed the Plan in light of the enactment and implementation of the State USF Program and proposes to modify the Plan to terminate the Traditional USF

¹ RCW 80.36.630 through 80.36.700.

coincident with the effectiveness of the State USF Program on July 1, 2014. The Commission seeks comments and has scheduled a hearing on that proposal.

THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE of the opportunity to comment on the Commission's proposal to terminate the Traditional USF. Comments are due no later than Monday, May 5, 2014.

NOTICE OF HEARING: The Commission will conduct a hearing on its proposal to terminate the Traditional USF on **Thursday, May 15, 2014, at 1:30 p.m.** in the Commission's Hearing Room, Second Floor, Richard Hemstad Building, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington.

STEVEN V. KING
Executive Director and Secretary