

Agenda Date: September 27, 2006
Item Number: A2

Docket: UT-063052
Company Name: Twenty-nine Telecommunications Companies

Staff: Bob Shirley, Telecommunications Policy Analyst
Betty Erdahl, Regulatory Analyst
Kristen Russell, Regulatory Analyst
Tim Zawislak, Regulatory Analyst

Recommendation

Direct the Executive Secretary to certify to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) that the eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) listed in the appendix to this memo will use federal high-cost universal service fund support only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of the facilities and services for which the support is intended.

Background

The FCC requires that state commissions that desire ETCs to receive federal high-cost support pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313 and 54.314 must file a certification that all federal high cost support provided to ETCs will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. Federal support is used by ETCs to provide basic and advanced telecommunications services to consumers in Washington. The certification is due at the FCC and USAC not later than September 29; failure to file by that date will result in the loss of at least a quarter of available federal support.

The commission determines whether to certify an ETC to the FCC and USAC based on certifications and reports from ETCs as required by WAC 480-123-060 and 070. The purpose of the rules is to permit the commission to determine if ETCs will use federal high-cost universal service fund support only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of the facilities and services for which the support is intended so that the commission can make a certification to the FCC consistent with the commission's determination.

Twenty-nine of 31 ETCs filed reports and certifications and requested certification by the commission to the FCC and USAC.¹ Commission staff requested supplemental filings from 23 ETCs and determined the initial filings of six ETCs met the requirements for certification. After examination of all supplemental filings, commission staff determined that all 23 supplemental filings met the requirements of the rules, and therefore all 29 ETCs that requested certification should be certified consistent with WAC 480-123-060.²

¹ Neither Qwest nor Verizon requested certification.

² Commission staff's conclusion assumes approval of the temporary exemption requested by Cingular Wireless in UT-063065.

On September 13, the commission postponed a decision in this docket because it desired more time to study the information reported by ETCs and because it desired more information about consumer complaints and service outages. At the same meeting, the commission also postponed a decision in the related docket in which one ETC made a request for a temporary exemption related to reporting service outages for 2005.³ Since the September 13 meeting, additional information that responds to the questions raised on September 13 has been filed with the commission.

Cingular was requested to provide more information about complaints made to the FCC and the Attorney General Consumer Protection Division (AG). Cingular filed detailed information about each complaint already reported to replace the summary of complaints it provided consistent with the rule in its initial filing. In addition, Cingular stated in its supplemental filing that prior to Cingular becoming an ETC in 2005 there were some complaints to the AG and complaints to the FCC. Cingular stated it does not have detailed resolution information for these complaints. Cingular stated it will have complete information for 2006 as the result of a new reporting system.

Conclusion

Commission staff concludes that the 29 ETCs listed in the appendix to this memo will use federal high-cost universal service fund support only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of the facilities and services for which the support is intended, and commission staff recommends the ETCs should be certified to the FCC and USAC in accordance with WAC 480-123-060(2) and 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313 and 54.314.

³ Docket No. UT-063065.

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RE: Certification of Support for Rural and Non-Rural High-Cost Carriers Pursuant to 47 C.F.R Sections 54.313-314, CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 00-256

To the Filing Representatives:

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission certifies that all federal high cost support provided to telecommunications carriers listed in the appendix to this letter will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

Enclosed is a list of eligible telecommunications carriers certified by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission pursuant to sections 54.313 and 54.314 of the FCC's rules (47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313, 54.314). As requested by the Universal Service Administrative Company, listed with each carrier is its assigned study area code and whether it is a rural or non-rural company.

Sincerely,

CAROLE J. WASHBURN
Executive Secretary

Encl.: Appendix, ETCs Certified by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, September 2006

APPENDIX

ETCs Certified by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

September, 2006

SAC	ETC Name	Type
521402	M&L ENTERPRISES, INC. D/B/A SKYLINE TELEPHONE	Rural
522400	UNITED TELEPHONE CO OF THE NW – WA D/B/A EMBARQ	Non-rural
522404	ASOTIN TELEPHONE COMPANY - WA	Rural
522408	CENTURYTEL OF WASHINGTON, INC.	Rural
522410	CENTURYTEL OF COWICHE, INC.	Rural
522412	ELLENSBURG TELEPHONE COMPANY	Rural
522417	HAT ISLAND TELEPHONE COMPANY	Rural
522418	PEND OREILLE TELEPHONE COMPANY	Rural
522419	HOOD CANAL TELEPHONE COMPANY	Rural
522423	INLAND TELEPHONE COMPANY - WA	Rural
522426	KALAMA TELEPHONE COMPANY	Rural
522427	LEWIS RIVER TELEPHONE COMPANY INC.	Rural
522430	MCDANIEL TELEPHONE COMPANY	Rural
522431	MASHELL TELECOM INC.	Rural
522437	PIONEER TELEPHONE COMPANY	Rural
522442	ST. JOHN TELEPHONE CO.	Rural
522446	TENINO TEL. CO.	Rural
522447	TOLEDO TELEPHONE COMPANY INC.	Rural
522451	WESTERN WAHAKIACUM COUNTY TEL COMPANY	Rural
522452	WHIDBEY TEL. CO.	Rural
522453	YCOM NETWORKS, INC.	Rural
529001	UNITED STATES CELLULAR CORPORATION	Wireless
529002	RCC MINNESOTA, INC.	Wireless
529003	WASHINGTON RSA NO. 8 LIMITED PARTNERSHIP	Wireless
529004	EASTERN SUB-RSA LIMITED PARTNERSHIP	Wireless
529008	SPRINT SPECTRUM, LP	Wireless
529910	CINGULAR WIRELESS, LLC D/B/A AT&T WIRELESS (WA)	Wireless
NA	BEAVER CREEK TELEPHONE COMPANY	Rural
NA	WESTGATE COMMUNICATIONS LLC D/B/A WEA VTEL	Rural