

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Establishment  
and Operation of an Advisory Board  
for the State Universal  
Communications Service Program  
Pursuant to WAC 480-123-150

DOCKET UT-150067

ORDER 02

ORDER REAPPOINTING  
ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

**BACKGROUND**

- <sup>1</sup> In 2013, the Washington legislature established a state universal communications program (Program) to provide targeted financial support to small incumbent telephone companies serving high-cost rural areas in Washington.<sup>1</sup> The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) is responsible for implementing and administering the Program and has adopted rules to fulfill its statutory obligation.<sup>2</sup>
- <sup>2</sup> As part of its duties, the Commission established an industry and consumer advisory board to provide recommendations to the Commission on the implementation and management of the program.<sup>3</sup> The board must be comprised of members who represent each of the following interests:
- Incumbent local exchange companies (ILECs) serving fewer than 40,000 access lines in Washington;
  - ILECs serving more than 40,000 access lines in Washington;
  - Competitive local exchange carriers (CLECs) serving customers in Washington;
  - Wireless communications service providers offering service in Washington;
  - The Public Counsel unit of the state attorney general's office (Public Counsel); and
  - Commission Staff (Staff).<sup>4</sup>
- <sup>3</sup> On January 29, 2015, the Commission issued Order 01, Order Appointing Advisory Board Members and Initiating Meeting. Public Counsel and Commission staff (Staff)

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<sup>1</sup> RCW 80.36.650 – 700.

<sup>2</sup> WAC 480-123-100 – 170.

<sup>3</sup> WAC 480-123-150(1); *accord* RCW 80.36.650(7).

<sup>4</sup> WAC 480-123-150(2)(a).

representatives have permanent membership on the advisory board. In Order 01, the Commission appointed Rick Vitzhum, Mark S. Reynolds, Cindy J. Manheim, and Rhonda Weaver to serve on the advisory board for an initial three-year term, at the conclusion of which they may be reappointed for a subsequent three-year term.<sup>5</sup>

### DISCUSSION AND DECISION

4 The industry board members' initial three-year term expires January 28, 2018. The Commission has been well served by all board members and each of the appointed board members have expressed a willingness to serve an additional three-year term.<sup>6</sup> In addition, we find that Jing Roth, the Commission's telecommunications assistant director, is the appropriate representative for Staff. Lisa Gafken has served as Public Counsel's permanent board member since 2016 and expressed a willingness to serve another term.

5 Accordingly, the Commission appoints the following persons to membership on the board:

<b>Advisory Board Membership</b>	
ILECs serving fewer than 40,000 access lines in Washington (Three year term)	Rick Vitzhum, Chief Financial Officer, Kalama Telephone Company and Tenino Telephone Company
ILECs serving more than 40,000 access lines in Washington (Three year term)	Mark S. Reynolds, Northwest Region Vice President – Public Policy, CenturyLink
CLECs serving customers in Washington (Three year term)	Rhonda Weaver, Senior Director - State Government Affairs, Comcast
Wireless communications providers offering service in Washington (Three year term)	Cindy J. Manheim, General Attorney, AT&T
Public Counsel	Lisa Gafken, Assistant Attorney General
Staff	Jing Roth, Assistant Director, Regulatory Services Division

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<sup>5</sup> WAC 480-123-150(2)(b).

<sup>6</sup> The Program terminates on June 30, 2019, (RCW 80.36.700). If the program is not extended, a board member's responsibilities end upon the termination of the Program.

6 The Commission appoints Jing Roth as the chairwoman of the advisory board. She will establish the date and time of the next board meeting in consultation with the other board members. All meetings of the advisory board will take place at the Commission's office located at 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW, Olympia, Washington. The board Chairwoman will prepare and provide notice of the agenda no later than one week prior to meeting.

**ORDER**

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

- 7 (1) Membership of the advisory board shall be as set forth in paragraph 5 of this Order.
- 8 (2) The chairwoman of the advisory board will schedule annual board meetings and will prepare and provide notice of the agenda no later than one week in advance of the meeting.
- 9 (3) The Commission retains jurisdiction over this matter to take such future actions as may be appropriate.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective January 25, 2018.

**WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**STEVEN V. KING, Executive Director and Secretary**