

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

In the Matter of Approving the)	DOCKET NO. UT-020200
Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS))	
Excise Tax.)	ORDER DETERMINING THE
.....)	TRS EXCISE TAX RATE

BACKGROUND

1 The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) is required by RCW 43.20A.725 to determine on an annual basis the amount of the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) excise tax to be applied monthly to each switched access line and must inform each local exchange company of this amount no later than May 15 of each year. The level of the excise tax to be applied is to be based on the information and recommendation provided by the Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services within the state Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). The budget must be reviewed and approved by the DSHS Budget Division and submitted to the Office of Financial Management (OFM) for final review and approval.

2 This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled open meeting held on April 10, 2002. The Commissioners, having been advised in the matter, and having determined the following order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter the following order and related provisions.

FINDINGS OF FACT

3 RCW 43.20A.725 requires DSHS to submit the approved budget to the Commission no later than March 1 of each year. The Commission then determines the amount of the excise tax based on the program budget, as submitted by DSHS, and the total number of switched access lines. The TRS excise tax must not exceed nineteen cents (\$0.19) per month per access line as established through legislation.

4 The DSHS Budget Division provided the Commission with a copy of the proposed TRS program budget information on February 15, 2002, a revised budget on March 19, 2002, and a final proposed budget on April 2, 2002. The budget was approved by OFM and submitted to the Commission on April 3, 2002.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

5 The Commission reviewed the approved budget and has determined that the amount of the TRS excise tax should remain at the existing rate of fourteen cents (\$0.14) per switched access line per month.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 6 Each local exchange telephone company shall collect the Telecommunications Relay Services excise tax in the amount of fourteen cents (\$0.14) per switched access line per month; and pursuant to RCW 43.20A.725, shall remit the amount collected directly to the Department of Social and Health Services on a monthly basis, and shall separately identify the excise tax on each ratepayer's bill.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 10th day of April, 2002.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN
Secretary