



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

621 Woodland Square Loop S.E. • Lacey, Washington 98503

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February 12, 2020

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO FILE WRITTEN COMMENTS
ON PROPOSED RULES
(By March 13, 2020)**

and

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE ADOPTION HEARING
(Set for March 30, 2020, at 9:30 a.m.)**

Re: Rulemaking to consider amending and adopting rules in WAC 480-123, universal service, to implement legislation amending and extending the state universal communications service program,
Docket UT-190437

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) provides this notice to inform you of the progress made in this rulemaking docket concerning the possible adoption of proposed revisions to WAC 480-123, Universal Service, to implement the provisions of sections 11 through 18 of Second Substitute Senate Bill 5511 (Broadband Bill), enacted in the 2019 Legislative Session. Section 18(2) of the bill requires the Commission to amend and adopt new rules to implement reforms to the state universal communications service program.

On August 8, 2019, the Commission filed with the Code Reviser a Preproposal Statement of Inquiry (CR-101) to address the continuation of the universal service communications program and implement necessary changes that address provider eligibility, buildout requirements, support amounts, and methods to effectively and efficiently distribute program support. The Commission subsequently circulated draft rules, has reviewed the comments it has received from stakeholders, and has prepared proposed rules for adoption. The Commission also issued a Small Business Economic Impact Statement Questionnaire to obtain information on any economic impact of these rules on the companies. The Commission received no responses to the questionnaire. The prior draft rules, comments, and questionnaire are available on the Commission's website at <http://www.utc.wa.gov/190437>.

On February 12, 2020, the Commission filed a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (CR-102) with the Office of the Code Reviser. The proposed rules would implement changes for Commission oversight of the state universal communications program including, but not limited to, criteria for determining eligibility, requirements for filing information, calculating funding levels, and the continuing responsibilities of an Advisory Board. The proposed rules are available for inspection on the Commission's website at <http://www.utc.wa.gov/190437>. The CR-102 filing initiates the final phase of the rulemaking process, which includes a written comment period, a public adoption hearing, and the Commission's decision.

WRITTEN COMMENTS

The Commission gives notice of the opportunity to submit written comments on the proposed rules. Written comments must be filed with the Commission by **5 p.m. on March 13, 2020**. Pursuant to WAC 480-07-250(3), written comments must be submitted in electronic form, specifically in searchable .pdf format (Adobe Acrobat or comparable software). As provided in WAC 480-07-140(5), those comments must be submitted via the Commission's web portal at www.utc.wa.gov/e-filing. If you are unable to submit via the portal, you may submit your comments by email to the Commission's Records Center at records@utc.wa.gov or by mailing or delivering an electronic copy to the Commission's Records Center on a flash drive, DVD, or compact disc that includes the filed document(s). Comment submissions should include:

- The docket number of this proceeding (Dockets UT-190437);
- The commenting party's name; and,
- The title and date of the comment(s).

The Commission will post all comments in Docket UT-190437, available on its website at <http://www.utc.wa.gov/190437>.

ADOPTION HEARING

The Commission will conduct a public adoption hearing at **9:30 a.m. on March 30, 2020**, in the Commission's Richard Hemstad Hearing Room, 621 Woodland Square Loop SE, Lacey, Washington 98503. Interested persons may comment on the proposed rules at the hearing or may listen to the adoption hearing via Skype by calling (360) 407-3810 and using conference ID 9524028.

The Commission is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to participants with disabilities at its facilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for this hearing, please contact the Commission at least one business day prior to the hearing by calling 1-360-664-1132 or by sending an email to human_resources@utc.wa.gov. For TTY service, please call the Washington Relay Service at 7-1-1 or 1-800-833-6384.

If you have questions regarding this rulemaking, you may contact Staff, Jing Roth, at (360) 664-1291 or by email at jing.roth@utc.wa.gov, or Sean Bennett, at (360) 664-1109 or by email at sean.bennett@utc.wa.gov.

MARK L. JOHNSON
Executive Director and Secretary