

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of Approving the)	DOCKET NO. UT-030350
Telecommunications Relay Service)	
(TRS))	ORDER NO. 01
Excise Tax.)	
)	ORDER DETERMINING THE
)	TRS EXCISE TAX RATE AND
)	DIRECTING LOCAL EXCHANGE
)	COMPANIES, INCLUDING
)	RESELLERS, TO REMIT COLLECTIONS
)	MONTHLY PURSUANT TO RCW
)	43.20A.725
.....)	

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 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.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 2 (1) RCW 43.20A.725 requires DSHS to submit the approved budget to the Commission. The budget was approved by OFM and submitted to the Commission on March 3, 2003. The Commission determined the amount of the excise tax based on the program budget.
- 3 (2) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled open meeting held on April 9, 2003.

- 4 (3) 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:

- 5 (1) Each local exchange company, including resellers, must separately identify the excise tax on each ratepayer's bill; must 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, must remit the amount collected directly to the Department of Social and Health Services on a monthly basis.
- (2) The Commissioners, having determined the Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter the Order and related provisions.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 9th day of April, 2003.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary