

Agenda Date: April 27, 2005  
Item Number: C1

**Docket:** UT-053021

Company Name: Telecommunications - General

Staff: Robert Shirley, Telecommunications Policy Analyst

**Recommendation:**

Direct Commission Staff to file a CR-101 to begin a rulemaking on the topic of Commission designation of eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) and the related annual certification concerning the use of federal universal service support funds.

**Background:**

On March 17, 2005, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued a Report and Order changing its rules for designation of ETCs by the FCC.<sup>1</sup> In addition to changing its rules for ETC designation, the FCC encouraged states to adopt the same, or a similar, approach to ETC designation. The FCC Report and Order also concerned requirements for annual certifications by ETCs that the carriers use federal support only for the intended purposes.

Commission Staff proposes a rulemaking to explore the need for Commission rules on the issues raised by the FCC's recommendations. This includes the possibility of amending or repealing the existing annual certification rule, WAC 480-120-311.

Commission Staff proposes the rulemaking begin with a request for comments on the FCC recommendations, followed by a workshop.

**Recommendation:**

Direct Commission Staff to file a CR-101 on the topic of ETC designation and the related annual certification concerning the use of federal universal service support funds.

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<sup>1</sup> *In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, Report and Order, CC Docket No. 96-45, FCC 05-46 (released March 17, 2005).