

[Service Date April 20, 2012]

April 20, 2012

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO FILE WRITTEN COMMENTS
(By Monday, May 21, 2012)**

Re: Rulemaking to Consider Modifications to, or Elimination of, the Requirement
Related to Distribution of Telephone Books in WAC 480-120-251
Docket UT-120451

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

On April 18, 2012, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) filed with the Code Reviser a Preproposal Statement of Inquiry (CR-101) to consider modifications to, or elimination of, the requirement that local exchange companies provide each customer a copy of a telephone directory for the customer's exchange area, as described in WAC 480-120-251. The Commission filed the CR-101 under Docket UT-120451.

Due to changes in technology, the number of people who rely on printed directories of telephone numbers has decreased significantly and continues to decline. Telephone numbers are readily available on the Internet, which an increasing number of consumers access in place of printed directories. Communities are also concerned with the environmental impact of printed directories, and local governments are beginning to encourage their citizens to forgo these directories as a means of reducing waste and the expense created by directory disposal. This rulemaking seeks to accommodate these concerns and customer usage patterns to more carefully tailor regulatory requirements to consumer and community needs.

Interested persons are asked to comment on whether the Commission should eliminate or modify the current requirement that telecommunications companies provide printed directories. Comments that respond to the following questions would be most useful:

1. Do all telephone company customers need printed directories of telephone numbers? If not, which types of customers continue to need such directories?

2. If all customers do not need printed directories, should the Commission continue to require telephone companies to provide them?
3. Should telephone companies give their customers the option to receive a printed directory?
 - a. If so, should customers be given the option not to receive a printed directory (opt out) or should customers be required to affirmatively request a directory (opt in)?
 - b. What costs would a telephone company incur to implement optional distribution of printed directories?
 - c. If any such costs would be significant, how should the company recover those costs?
4. Should the rule explicitly allow a telephone company to seek an exemption from the rule to relieve it of the obligation to print and/or deliver printed directories to customers? If so, what standard should the Commission consider?
5. Should the Commission give telephone companies the option to provide online directories of telephone numbers instead of printed directories?

The CR-101, as filed with the Code Reviser, is available for inspection on the Commission's website at www.utc.wa.gov/120451. If you are unable to access the Commission's web page and would like a copy of the CR-101 mailed to you, please contact the Records Center at (360) 664-1234.

WRITTEN COMMENTS

Written comments on the CR-101 and the questions listed above to review the rules for distribution of telephone directories must be filed with the Commission no later than **5:00 p.m., Monday, May 21, 2012**. The Commission requests that comments be provided in electronic format to enhance public access, for ease of providing comments, to reduce the need for paper copies, and to facilitate quotations from the comments. You may submit comments via the Commission's Web portal at www.utc.wa.gov/e-filing or by electronic mail to the Commission's Records Center at records@utc.wa.gov. Please include:

- The docket number of this proceeding (UT-120451).
- The commenting party's name.
- The title and date of the comment or comments.

An alternative method for submitting comments is by mailing or delivering an electronic copy to the Commission's Records Center on a 3 ½ inch, IBM-formatted, high-density disk, in .pdf Adobe Acrobat format or in Word 97 or later. Include all of the information requested above. The Commission will post on its web site all comments that are provided in electronic format. The web site is located at www.utc.wa.gov/120451.

If you are unable to file your comments electronically or to submit them on a disk, the Commission will accept a paper document. If you have questions regarding this rulemaking, you may contact staff lead, John Cupp, at (360) 664-1113, or by email at jcupp@utc.wa.gov.

Stakeholders will have further opportunity for comment. Information about the schedule and other aspects of the rulemaking, including comments, will be posted on the Commission's website as it becomes available. If you wish to receive further information on this rulemaking you may:

- (1) Call the Commission's Records Center at (360) 664-1234
- (2) Email the Commission at records@utc.wa.gov
- (3) Mail written comments to the address below

Currently a workshop is not scheduled for this rulemaking although one may be considered upon request or may be scheduled on the Commission's own motion.

When contacting the Commission, please refer to Docket UT-120451 to ensure that you are placed on the appropriate service list. The Commission's mailing address is:

Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W.
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

NOTICE

If you do not want to comment now, but do want to receive future information about this rulemaking, please notify the Executive Director and Secretary in one of the ways described above and ask to be included on the mailing list for Docket UT-120451. If you do not do this, you might not receive further information about this rulemaking.

Sincerely,

DAVID W. DANNER
Executive Director and Secretary