BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition of

DOCKET UT-160312

TELECOM NORTH AMERICA, INC.,

ORDER 01

Petitioner,

Seeking Exemption from the Provisions of WAC 480-120-382 Requiring Competitively Classified Telecommunications Companies to File the 2015 Annual Report no later than May 1, 2016.

ORDER GRANTING EXEMPTION FROM RULE; GRANTING COMPANY ADDITIONAL TIME TO FILE ANNUAL REPORT

BACKGROUND

- On March 16, 2016, Telecom North America, Inc. (Telecom North America or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition for an extension of time to file its annual report for 2015 as required by WAC 480-120-382. According to Telecom North America, it is unable to prepare the report due to year-end financial statements that will not be finalized and approved by the due date. Telecom North America seeks an extension until July 1, 2016. The Company understands that the annual regulatory fee must be paid on or before May 1, 2016.
- 2 Commission Staff reviewed the request and recommends granting Telecom North America's request for exemption.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate public service companies, including competitively classified telecommunications companies. RCW 80.01.040, RCW 80.04, and RCW 80.36.
- 4 (2) Telecom North America is a competitively classified telecommunications company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 5 (3) Telecom North America is subject to WAC 480-120-382, which requires competitively classified telecommunications companies to file an annual report no later than May 1 of each year.

- 6 (4) Under WAC 480-120-015, the Commission may grant an exemption from any rule in WAC 480-120, if consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying regulation and applicable statutes. See also WAC 480-07-110.
- 7 (5) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on April 7, 2016.
- 8 (6) After review of the petition in Docket UT-160312 by Telecom North America filed on March 16, 2016, and giving due consideration, the Commission finds that the exemption is in the public interest and is consistent with the purposes underlying the regulation and applicable statutes and should be granted.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 9 (1) The request by Telecom North America, Inc. for an exemption from WAC 480-120-382 and for an extension until July 1, 2016, to file its 2015 annual report is granted.
- 10 (2) Failure by Telecom North America, Inc. to file its annual report by July 1, 2016, may result in the Commission invoking RCW 80.04.405, which allows the Commission to assess penalties for violations of statute, rules and Commission orders.
- 11 (3) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and Telecom North America, Inc. to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective April 7, 2016.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION