



STATE OF WASHINGTON

UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

(360) 664-1160 • [www.utc.wa.gov](http://www.utc.wa.gov)

May 9, 2014

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO FILE WRITTEN COMMENTS**

**(by Monday, June 9, 2014)**

**And**

**NOTICE OF WORKSHOP**

**(To be held Monday, July 28, 2014, at 1:30 p.m.)**

RE: Rulemaking to consider amending rules in WAC 480-120, Telephone Companies, WAC 480-121, Registration and Competitive Classification of Telecommunications Companies, WAC 480-122, Washington Telephone Assistance Program, WAC 480-123, Universal Service, WAC 480-140, Commission General – Budgets, and WAC 480-143, Commission General – Transfers of Property, due to competitive changes within the telecommunications to meet consumer, commission and industry requirements no longer applicable under the existing WAC rules;  
Docket UT-140680

**TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:**

On May 7, 2014, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) filed with the Code Reviser a Preproposal Statement of Inquiry (CR-101) to initiate a rulemaking to consider amending, adopting, and eliminating rules in WAC 480-120, Telephone Companies, WAC 480-121, Registration and Competitive Classification of Telecommunications Companies, WAC 480-122, Washington Telephone Assistance Program, WAC 480-123, Universal Service, WAC 480-140, Commission General – Budgets, and WAC 480-143, Commission General – Transfers of Property. The Commission is initiating this rulemaking to address the changes that have occurred in the telecommunications marketplace since 2007, the last time the Commission revised these rules.

The CR-101, as filed with the Code Reviser, is available for inspection on the Commission's website at [www.utc.wa.gov/140680](http://www.utc.wa.gov/140680). 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.

## BACKGROUND

The telecommunications industry has undergone substantial technological and competitive changes in just the last few years. Incumbent local exchange carriers (ILEC) that previously served the majority of telephone customers in Washington are subject to widespread competition from competitive local exchange carriers (CLEC), wireless carriers, and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) providers. Washington consumers and businesses now have multiple choices of providers for their telephone services, and as a result, the ILECs have experienced significant declines in customers and local telephone service revenues.

The Commission's rules should reflect the reality of the current telecommunications markets. Accordingly, the Commission seeks comments from interested persons on how existing rules governing telecommunications companies should be modified to accomplish this goal.

Comments on the following topics would be most useful:

1. Validity of distinguishing between Class A and Class B ILECs;
2. Applicability of Carrier of Last Resort responsibilities in a competitive environment;
3. Need to modify service restoral requirements for major outages;
4. Desirability of reducing service quality reporting requirements;
5. Applicability and content of line extension requirements; and
6. Increasing the minimum annual filing fee and eliminating the waiver of the minimum fee.

## WRITTEN COMMENTS

The Commission requests interested persons submit comments by **Monday, June 9, 2014**, addressing the issues identified above, as well as any other areas of the Commission's telecommunications regulations that may be suitable for revision. 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. Comments may be submitted via the Commission's Web portal ([www.utc.wa.gov/e-filing](http://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-140680.
- The commenting party's name.
- The title and date of the comment or comments.

Alternatively, comments may be submitted by mailing or delivering an electronic copy to the Commission's Records Center on a 3 ½ inch, IBM-formatted, high-density disk, flash drive, or CD in .pdf Adobe Acrobat format or in Word 97 or later format. 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 <http://www.utc.wa.gov/140680>.

If you are unable to file your comments electronically, the Commission will always accept a paper document. Questions may be addressed to Bill Weinman at (360) 359-1109 or e-mail at [wweinman@utc.wa.gov](mailto:wweinman@utc.wa.gov).

### **STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP**

In addition to filing written comments, interested persons are invited to attend a stakeholder workshop on **Monday, July 28, 2014, beginning at 1:30 p.m., in Room 206, Richard Hemstad Building, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington.**

The Commission's teleconference bridge line will be available for the workshop. The Commission prefers and recommends that interested persons participate in person and share ideas in a workshop setting. However, if this imposes a hardship, interested persons may participate at the workshop via the Commission's teleconference bridge at **(360) 664-3846**. The conference bridge, however, is limited to 22 access lines.

The Commission anticipates further proceedings in this rulemaking, and information about the schedule and other aspects of the rulemaking, including opportunities for additional comment, will be posted on the Commission's web site as it becomes available. If you wish to receive further information on this rulemaking you may:

- Call the Commission's Records Center at (360) 664-1234.
- E-mail the Commission at [records@utc.wa.gov](mailto:records@utc.wa.gov).
- Mail written comments to the address below.

When contacting the Commission, please refer to Docket UT-140680 to ensure that you are placed on the appropriate service list. The Commission's mailing address is:

Steven V. King  
Executive Director and Secretary  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive S.W.  
P.O. Box 47250  
Olympia, Washington 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-140680. If you do not do this, you might not receive further information about this rulemaking.**

STEVEN V. KING

Executive Director and Secretary