

April 17, 2001

**NOTICE OF ISSUANCE OF SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMIC
IMPACT STATEMENT (SBEIS) QUESTIONNAIRE
(May 4, 2001)**

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO FILE WRITTEN COMMENTS
AND TO PROPOSE ALTERNATIVE RULE LANGUAGE
ON DRAFT RULES CONCERNING THE
WASHINGTON TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (WTAP)
(May 4, 2001)**

Re: Telecommunications Companies, Chapter 480-122 WAC
Docket No. UT-003074

TO ALL LOCAL EXCHANGE COMPANIES and INTERESTED PERSONS:

The Commission requests that local exchange companies complete a questionnaire intended to assist the Commission with preparation of a Small Business Economic Impact Statement (SBEIS), and requests written comments and alternative rule language for the rules governing the Washington Telephone Assistance Program (WTAP).

SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Washington's Regulatory Fairness Act is intended to focus an agency's attention on the economic impact of proposed rules on affected businesses, involve affected businesses in developing rules, and minimize any disproportionate impact of rules on small businesses.

Before adopting a rule that will impose more than minor costs on an industry, the Commission is asked to analyze the compliance costs for **both large and small** businesses (including lost sales or revenue), involve small businesses in the development of the rule, take feasible steps to reduce the economic impact of the rule on small businesses, and prepare an SBEIS. A "small business" is any profit-making entity that has 50 or fewer employees.

The Commission requests that telecommunications companies complete and return the attached Questionnaire (with respect to attached proposed rules -- WAC 480-122-010, 020, 030, 040, 060, 070, and 090) to the Commission **no later than 12:00 p.m. on May 4, 2001**. The draft rules for the WTAP program also are posted on the Commission's web site at www.wutc.wa.gov.003074. You may respond by FAX at 360-586-1150.

ALTERNATIVE RULE LANGUAGE AND WRITTEN COMMENTS

The Commission invites interested persons to submit written comments and to propose alternative language to the proposed rules. Proposals of alternative rule language will assist staff in understanding any concerns that may be raised by comments. Written comments and alternative rule language should be submitted **no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 4, 2001**.

Electronic copies. The Commission also requests, but does not require, that comments be provided in electronic format to facilitate quotations from the comments, to enhance public access, and to reduce the need for additional paper copies. Please help us by sending an electronic copy with your paper filing on a 3-1/2 inch, IBM-formatted, high density disk, in .pdf Adobe Acrobat format, reflecting the pagination of your original. Also send us the text in your choice of .doc (Word 97 or later) or .wpd (Wordperfect 6.0 or later) and include all of the following information on the label of the diskette:

- * The docket number of this proceeding (UT-003074);
- * The commenting party's name;
- * The title and date of the comment or comments; and
- * The type of software used.

Please use the three-letter extension noted above for all electronic files. You may also send your comments by electronic mail to the Commission's Records Center at <records@wutc.wa.gov>; if you choose this means of submitting comments, include all of the information requested above on the diskette label. The Commission will post all comments that are provided in electronic format on the Commission's web site (see address above).

Information about the schedule and other aspects of the rulemaking, including comments, will be posted on the Commission's web site as it becomes available. If you want to receive ongoing information about this rulemaking you may (1) call the Commission's Records Center at 360-664-1234, (2) e-mail the Commission at <records@wutc.wa.gov>, or (3) mail a written request to the attention of Carole J. Washburn, Secretary, at the letterhead address. When contacting the Commission regarding this rulemaking, please refer to Docket No. UT-003074 to ensure that you are placed on the appropriate service list or to otherwise ensure a prompt response.

Staff will use comments received to complete a draft that will be presented to the Commission and, if the Commissioners agree, published in the "State Register" as the proposed amended rules. Following publication in the State Register, there will be another comment period prior to

a hearing before the Commission as it decides whether to adopt rule changes. Interested persons also may appear at the adoption meeting and present comments at that time.

The Commission appreciates your prompt consideration and response in this matter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Kristen Russell at 360-664-1281.

Sincerely,

CAROLE J. WASHBURN
Secretary

Attachments