

April 6, 2001

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO FILE WRITTEN COMMENTS
AND TO PROPOSE ALTERNATIVE RULE LANGUAGE
(April 30, 2001)**

**NOTICE OF RULEMAKING WORKSHOP
(May 8, 2001)**

ON DRAFT RULES CONCERNING TERMINATING ACCESS CHARGES

RE: Docket No. UT-990146
Chapter 480-120 WAC Telecommunications—Terminating Access Charges

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

The Commission will hold a rulemaking workshop to discuss draft rules concerning terminating access charges (payments carriers pay to other carriers for the origination and termination of calls). Copies of the drafts of two of the rules, WAC 480-120-X11 and X12, have previously been circulated, the third rule draft would revise WAC 480-120-540, or, in the alternative, create a new section WAC 480-120-AAA. Copies of the draft rules are included with this notice.

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

We encourage your attendance and participation in the stakeholder workshop to discuss these rules. The workshop will be held **Tuesday, May 8, 2001** in Room 206 at the Commission's headquarters, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Free parking is available. The Commission's address is:

Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive SW
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

ALTERNATIVE RULE LANGUAGE AND WRITTEN COMMENTS

The Commission also invites interested persons to submit written comments and to propose alternative draft rule language. Proposing specific alternative draft rule language in conjunction with written comments will assist staff in understanding the nature of any concerns that may be raised by comments. Written comments and alternative draft rule language should be submitted **no later than 5:00 P.M. April 30, 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-990146)
- * 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 for the diskette label. The Commission will post on the Commission's web site all comments that are provided in electronic format. The web site is located at <<http://www.wutc.wa.gov>>. 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 wish to receive further information on 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 written comments to the address above to the attention of Carole J. Washburn, Secretary. When contacting the Commission, please refer to Docket No. UT-990146 to ensure that you are placed on the appropriate service list.

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 may also appear at the adoption meeting and present comments at that time.

If you have questions about access charge issues, please contact Tim Zawislak by e-mail at tzawisla@wutc.wa.gov, or by calling 360-664-1294. If you have questions about other aspects of the rulemaking, or about the rulemaking process in general, you may contact Bob Shirley. He may be reached by surface mail at the address on this notice, by e-mail at bshirley@wutc.wa.gov, or by calling 360-664-1292.

Sincerely,

CAROLE J. WASHBURN
Secretary

w/attachments

WAC 480-120-X11 "Access charge and universal service reporting."
(replaces WAC 480-80-047 aka 480-120-541)

(1) Until new universal service fund legislation is adopted and effective, each **class A** telecommunications company in the state of Washington and the Washington Exchange Carrier Association (WECA), must provide annually:

(a) For each switched access **tariff** rate element, the current rate; the actual annual demand units for the previous calendar year; the actual annual revenues for the previous calendar year; the projected annual demand units for the current calendar year; and the projected annual revenues for the current calendar year.

(b) For each terminating switched access **tariff** rate element, the lowest current rate offered for comparable local interconnection service, such as end office switching and tandem switching; and the most recent total service long-run incremental cost study available (if different from the prior year), as calculated on a commission basis (e.g. commission authorized rate of return, depreciation lives, and reasonable contribution to common and overhead costs).

(c) For each WAC 480-120-540(3) rate element, the company-s own calculation of the total (unseparated) cost of support for universal access to basic service, if different from the total target revenue amount used in the prior year.

(d) The total level of federal support (both explicit and implicit) received for universal access to basic service, and the sources of such support.

(e) The total level of state support (both explicit and implicit) received for universal access to basic service, and the sources of such support.

(2) (a) Primary toll carriers (PTCs) must file current imputed rates, annual imputed units, and annual imputed revenues for each switched access **tariff** (or price list) rate element (including intrastate, interstate, and international) that the company would have had to purchase from itself if it had been an unaffiliated toll carrier using feature group D switched access service (including intraLATA and interLATA). The analysis contained in this subsection must be consistent with the method used to calculate the information provided pursuant to subsection (1)(a).

(b) For purposes of this subsection, a "primary toll carrier" means a local exchange company offering interexchange service(s) using feature group C switched access service for the origination and termination of any such service(s).

(3) Each **class A** telecommunications company in the state of Washington and the WECA must file revenue neutral **tariff** or price list revisions that conform with WAC 480-120-540 if any terminating access charge exceeds, or under-recovers, its applicable cost (or revenue target) by more, or less, than five percent (5%), on an annual basis.

(4) The reporting of the information outlined above and all necessary associated **tariff** or price list revisions must be filed by July 1 of each year. The revised **tariff** sheets or

price lists (if necessary) must bear a stated effective date of September 1 of the same year.

(5) Each company providing information required by this rule must include complete workpapers and sufficient data for the commission to review the accuracy of the report and any related **tariff** or price list filing.