

August 24, 2001

**NOTICE OF WORKSHOPS ON DRAFT RULES
(October 18 and 19, 2001)**

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON DRAFT RULES
(November 5, 2001)**

**NOTICE OF INTERACTIVE SBEIS QUESTIONNAIRE
(Now through November 7, 2001)**

RE: Telecommunications - Operations, Chapter 480-120 WAC
Docket No. UT-990146

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

The Commission has posted draft rules on its website for review, discussion at stakeholder workshops, to provide an opportunity for written comment, and to provide an opportunity to respond to a questionnaire that will assist the Commission in its preparation of a small business economic impact statement (SBEIS).

Rules Available for Review

The Commission has posted to its website rules concerning consumer and technical issues, as well as accounting, reporting, small company rate case filings, access charges, and universal service. The draft rules are posted at www.wutc.wa.gov/990146. The Commission has also posted an interactive SBEIS questionnaire on its web site. The interactive questionnaire is posted at www.wutc.wa.gov/990146/SBEIS.

If you would like to receive a paper copy of the draft rules or the questionnaire, you may contact the Commission and ask for a paper copy to be provided to you. Please call our Records Center at (360) 664-1234 if you need a paper copy of either document.

Workshops on Draft Rules

The Commission will hold rulemaking workshops to discuss these draft rules. The Commissioners are planning to attend these workshops. We encourage your attendance

and participation in the stakeholder workshops. The workshops will be held **Thursday and Friday, October 18 and 19, 2001**, in Room 206 at the Commission's headquarters, beginning at 9:00 a.m. each day. 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

The Commission has previously given notice of a workshop on September 19, 2001, at which draft WACs 480-120-X08, XXX, XXY will be the subjects of discussion. These rules address service quality and service credit issues. The Commission does not plan to address these rules at the October workshops. Notice of this workshop was mailed on August 10, 2001. Please see the Commission web site for additional information about the workshop scheduled for September 19, 2001.

Written Comments on Draft Rules - Alternative Rule Language Requested

Alternative rule language is requested from those who provide written comments. Alternative rule language received not later than Monday, November 5, 2001, will be used in the decision-making process of the staff as it prepares recommendations to the Commission. Alternative rule language and written comments may be submitted to the Commission at the address above. Written comments and alternative rule language should be filed with the Commission **no later than Monday, November 5, 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. Please also send us the text in your choice of .doc (Word 97 or later) or .wpd (Wordperfect 6.0 or later). Please 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, please 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>>.

SBEIS Questionnaire

The Commission has prepared an interactive questionnaire concerning the economic effects these draft rules may have on small businesses. The interactive questionnaire may be viewed and responded to over the internet at www.wutc.wa.gov/990146/SBEIS. All interested persons are requested to respond to the questionnaire, including businesses that do not meet the statutory definition of a small business (fifty or fewer employees). The Commission uses information concerning potential costs of its rules for all affected businesses in its analysis of rules.

Responses to the SBEIS questionnaire will be received on a section-by-section basis. Please respond to all rules that you believe will have an economic impact upon your business or upon customers.

You may **begin responding to the SBEIS questionnaire right now and may continue responding through November 7, 2001**. After November 7, 2001, the internet link to the questionnaire will be closed. Paper responses, if any, should also be filed with the Commission **no later than November 7, 2001**.

Please call if you need more information. If you need additional information regarding the rules draft please call Glenn Blackmon at (360) 664-1290 or e-mail him at blackmon@wutc.wa.gov between August 23 and September 24, after September 24, please call Bob Shirley at (360) 664-1292 or e-mail him at bshirley@wutc.wa.gov. If you need additional information regarding the SBEIS questionnaire please call Tim Zawislak at (360) 664-1294 or e-mail him at tim@wutc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

CAROLE J. WASHBURN
Secretary