

[Service Date March 4, 2016]



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

March 4, 2016

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO FILE WRITTEN COMMENTS
(By Monday, April 4, 2016)

Re: Rulemaking to consider amending, adopting, and repealing certain rules in WAC 480-120, Telephone Companies, relating to the Washington Telephone Assistance Program and Washington Exchange Carrier Association, and repair standards for planned service interruptions and impairments, Docket UT-160196

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

On March 2, 2016, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) filed with the Code Reviser a Preproposal Statement of Inquiry (CR-101) to consider amending WAC 480-120-021, Definitions; WAC 480-120-061, Refusing service; WAC 480-120-103, Application for service; WAC 480-120-174, Payment arrangements; repealing WAC 480-120-259, Washington Telephone Assistance Program (WTAP); WAC 480-120-352, Washington Exchange Carrier Association (WECA), and adopting WAC 480-120-XXX a reinstatement of WAC 480-120-440, Repair standards for service interruptions and impairments, excluding major outages, repealed in 2015 and filed with the Code Reviser at WSR 15-08-043 under Commission Docket UT-140680. The Commission proposes specific rule language as described below.

In Docket UT-140680, the Commission inadvertently repealed WAC 480-120-440. The rule required companies to repair all out-of-service interruptions within forty-eight hours, unless the company is physically obstructed from making the repair, or because of force majeure; or in the case of a major outage. This rulemaking seeks to reinstate WAC 480-120-440 in its entirety.

This rulemaking also seeks the following changes to correct errors:

- WAC 480-120-021, Definitions – Definition of “Order date” refers to WAC 480-120-112. This reference should be removed.
- WAC 480-120-061(1)(d)(ii), Refusing service – Refers to WAC 480-120-132, which is now WAC 480-120-104(5). This reference should be amended accordingly.
- WAC 480-120-103(2), Application for service - Refers to WAC 480-120-105 and WAC 480-120-112, which were repealed in a previous rulemaking. Both references should be removed.

WTAP ended in August 2015. This rulemaking seeks the following changes made necessary by the cessation of this program:

- WAC 480-120-021, Definitions – “Washington telephone assistance program” should be removed.
- WAC 480-120-174(2), Payment arrangements – This subsection describes the restoration of service to WTAP subscribers. This subsection should be removed.
- WAC 480-120-259, Washington telephone assistance plan, should be repealed in its entirety.

WECA has been discontinued because the Commission now handles WECA’s primary function of administering a universal service fund pursuant to rules in WAC 480-123. Accordingly, WAC 480-120-352 should be repealed as unnecessary.

Commission staff has developed discussion draft rules for review and comment by interested persons. The CR-101 and draft rules are available for inspection on the Commission’s website at www.utc.wa.gov/160196. If you are unable to access the Commission’s web page and would like a copy of the CR-101 and/or draft rules mailed to you, please contact the Records Center at (360) 664-1234.

WRITTEN COMMENTS

Written comments on the CR-101 inquiry and draft rules must be filed with the Commission no later than **5:00 p.m., Monday, April 4, 2016**. 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. You may submit comments via the Commission’s Web portal at 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-160196).
- The commenting party's name.
- The title and date of the comment or comments.

An alternative method for submitting comments is by mailing or delivering an electronic copy to the Commission's Records Center on a flash drive, DVD, or compact disk including the filed document(s). Parties must furnish electronic copies in MS Word 6.0 (or later) supplemented by a separate file in .pdf (Adobe Acrobat) 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 www.utc.wa.gov/160196.

If you are unable to file your comments electronically or to submit them on a disk, the Commission will accept a paper document. If you have questions regarding this rulemaking, you may contact staff lead, John Cupp, at (360) 664-1113, or by email at jcupp@utc.wa.gov.

Stakeholders will have further opportunity for comment. Information about the schedule and other aspects of the rulemaking, including comments, will be posted on the Commission's website 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) Email the Commission at records@utc.wa.gov
- (3) Mail written comments to the address below

When contacting the Commission, please refer to Docket UT-160196 to ensure that you are placed on the appropriate service list. The Commission's mailing address is:

Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
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P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 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-160196. If you do not do this, you might not receive further information about this rulemaking.

STEVEN V. KING
Executive Director and Secretary