

MEDIA ADVISORY

May 25, 2006

UT-060856

State regulators to discuss potential investigation of security agency disclosures

OLYMPIA, Wash. – State regulators will meet next week to discuss a request by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Washington Foundation to investigate the possible unlawful disclosure of private consumer information by Washington telecommunications companies to the National Security Agency.

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC), which regulates the practices of telephone companies in the state, scheduled the matter for discussion at its regularly scheduled public meeting, beginning at **9:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 31**, in the second-floor hearing room of the commission's headquarters, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia.

In a May 23 letter to UTC Chairman Mark Sidran, the ACLU asked the commission to investigate the allegations, which were first raised in a May 11 article in *USA Today*.

In his response to ACLU Executive Director Kathleen Taylor, Sidran said that the issues raised in the letter "are both serious and complex." He noted, however, that the meeting would focus on threshold legal and procedural questions – whether and how to address this issue – rather than the substantive merits of the allegations.

Members of the public who are unable to attend the public meeting but wish to comment on the issue can direct their correspondence to: P.O. Box 47250 Olympia, WA 98504, or e-mail us at www.wutc.wa.gov/comment, or call our toll-free number at 1-800-562-6150.

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