**Chapter 480-120 WAC**

**TELEPHONE COMPANIES**

**PART II. ESTABLISHING SERVICE AND CREDIT**

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**WAC 480-120-102 Service offered.** (1) Classes of service. The classes of service are business and residential. Each local exchange company (LEC) must file with the commission, as part of its tariff a description of the classes and types of service available to customers in each class. LECs must record for each access line whether local exchange service is residential or business class.

(2) Types of service. LECs must offer, at a minimum, flat-rate local exchange service. In addition, companies may offer service alternatives, such as measured service.

(3) Grade of service. Local exchange service offered by companies must be only one-party service.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.36.010, 80.36.110, 80.36.320, 80.36.330, 80.36.333, 80.36.338, 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 07-08-027 (Docket UT-060676, General Order R-540), § 480-120-102, filed 3/27/07, effective 4/27/07. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), § 480-120-102, filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03.]

**WAC 480-120-103 Application for service.** (1) When contacted by an applicant, or when a company contacts a person, a company must:

(a) Accept and process applications when an applicant for service for a particular location has met all tariff requirements and applicable commission rules;

(b) Establish the due date as the date requested by the applicant but is not required to establish a due date that is fewer than seven business days after the order date. If the company establishes a due date other than the date requested by the applicant, it must inform the applicant of the specific date when service will be provided or state that an estimated due date will be provided within seven business days as required by subsection (2) of this section; and

(c) Maintain a record in writing, or in electronic format, of each application for service, including requests for a change of service.

(2) If the company does not provide the applicant with a due date for installation or activation at the time of application as required in subsection (1)(b) of this section, the company must state the reason for the delay. Within seven business days of the date of the application, the company must provide the applicant with an estimated due date for installation or activation. The standards imposed by WAC 480-120-105 (Company performance standards for installation or activation of access lines) and 480-120-112 (Company performance for orders for nonbasic services) are not altered by this subsection.

(3) When the company informs the customer that installation of new service orders requires on-premises access by the company, the company must offer the customer an opportunity for an installation appointment that falls within a four-hour period.

(4) When the application for service requires an extension of service as defined in WAC 480-120-071 (Extension of service), the requirement of subsection (1)(b) of this section does not apply.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 08-19-001 (Docket No. A-030832, General Order No. R-551), § 480-120-103, filed 9/3/08, effective 10/4/08. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.36.010, 80.36.110, 80.36.320, 80.36.330, 80.36.333, 80.36.338, 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 07-08-027 (Docket UT-060676, General Order R-540), § 480-120-103, filed 3/27/07, effective 4/27/07. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), § 480-120-103, filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03.]

**WAC 480-120-104 Information to consumers.** (1) Except for services provided under written contract pursuant to competitive classification, each company must provide an applicant for initial service with a confirming notice or welcome letter, either in writing or with permission of the customer, electronically. The confirming notice or welcome letter must be provided to the applicant or customer no later than fifteen days after installation of service and must provide, at a minimum:

(a) Contact information for the appropriate business office, including a toll-free telephone number, a TTY number, mailing address, repair number, electronic address if applicable, and business office hours, that the customer can contact if they have questions;

(b) Confirmation of the services being provided to the customer by the company, and the rate for each service. If the service is provided under a banded rate schedule, the current rate, including the minimum and maximum at which the customer's rate may be shifted; and

(c) If the application is for local exchange service, the LEC must either provide the following information or inform the customer that it may be found on the company’s website:

i. Process for establishing credit and determining the need and amount for deposits;

ii. Procedure by which a bill becomes delinquent;

iii. Steps that must be taken by the company to disconnect service;

iv. Washington Telephone Assistance Program (WTAP);

v. Federal enhanced tribal lifeline program, if applicable; and

vi. Right of the customer to pursue any dispute with the company, including the appropriate procedures within the company and then to the commission by informal or formal complaint.

(2) Except for services provided under written contract pursuant to competitive classification, each company must provide each customer a confirming notice, either in writing or, with permission of the customer, electronically, within fifteen days of initiating a material change in service which results in the addition of a service, a change from one rate schedule to another, or a change in terms or conditions of an existing service. The confirming notice must provide at a minimum, the following information in clear and conspicuous language:

(a) Contact information for the appropriate business office, including a toll-free telephone number, a TTY number, and business office hours, that customers can contact if they have questions; and

(b) The changes in the service(s), including, if applicable, the rate for each service.

(3) When a LEC is acting as an executing carrier under WAC 480-120-147, it must make the following information available upon request:

(a) The name of the intraLATA and interLATA interexchange company to which the customer's account is currently subscribed; and

(b) A minimum of six months' account history, when available, including the date of the changes and the name of the interexchange company.

(4) When an applicant or customer contacts the LEC to select or change an interexchange company, the LEC must notify the carrier of the customer's selection or recommend that the customer contact the chosen interexchange company to confirm that an account has been or is being established by the interexchange carrier for the applicant.

(5) Each company must provide business offices or customer service centers that are accessible by telephone or in person. A business office or customer service center that serves more than one exchange must provide toll-free calling from each exchange to the office. Each business office or customer service center must be staffed by qualified personnel who can provide information relating to all services and rates, accept and process applications for service, explain charges on customers' bills, adjust charges made in error, and generally act as representatives of the company.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.36.010, 80.36.110, 80.36.320, 80.36.330, 80.36.333, 80.36.338, 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 07-08-027 (Docket UT-060676, General Order R-540), § 480-120-104, filed 3/27/07, effective 4/27/07. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), § 480-120-104, filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03.]

**WAC 480-120-122 Establishing credit—Residential services.** This section applies only to the provision of residential services.

(1) For a local exchange company (LEC) that offers basic service as part of any bundled package of services, the requirements of this subsection apply only to its lowest-priced, flat-rated residential basic service offering. The LEC may require an applicant or customer of residential basic service to pay a local service deposit only if:

(a) The applicant or customer has received two or more delinquency notices for basic service during the last twelve month period with that company or another company;

(b) The applicant or customer has had basic service discontinued by any telecommunications company;

(c) The applicant or customer has an unpaid, overdue basic service balance owing to any telecommunications company;

(d) The applicant's or customer's service is being restored following a discontinuation for nonpayment or acquiring service through deceptive means under WAC 480-120-172(1); or

(e) The applicant or customer has been disconnected for taking service under deceptive means as described in WAC 480-120-172(1).

(2) A LEC may, if provided for in its tariff or rates, terms and conditions of services provided pursuant to competitive classification, require an applicant or customer of ancillary services to demonstrate satisfactory credit by reasonable means, pay a deposit, or make advanced payments consistent with subsections (4) and (5) of this section.

The company must inform applicants that local service cannot be withheld pending payment of a deposit or advanced payments for ancillary services.

(3) An interexchange company may, if provided for in its tariff or rates, terms and conditions of services provided pursuant to competitive classification, require an applicant or customer of interexchange services to demonstrate satisfactory credit by reasonable means or pay a deposit consistent with subsections (4) and (5) of this section.

The company must inform applicants that local service cannot be withheld pending payment of a deposit for interexchange services.

(4) When a company requests a deposit from an applicant or customer, the amount of the deposit may not exceed two months' customary use for an applicant or customer with previous verifiable service of the same class, or two months' estimated use for an applicant or customer without previous verifiable service. Customary use is calculated using charges for the previous three months' service.

(5) When an applicant or customer is required to pay a basic service deposit or an interexchange deposit, but is unable to pay the entire amount in advance of connection or continuation of service, the company must offer the applicant or customer the following options:

(a) Pay no more than fifty percent of the requested deposit amount before installation or continuation of service, with the remaining amount payable in equal amounts over the following two months; or

(b) Where technology permits, the applicant or customer must have the option of accepting toll-restricted basic service in lieu of payment of the deposit. A company must not charge for toll restriction when it is used as an alternative to a deposit.

A company must remove toll restriction unless the customer requests to retain it when the customer makes full payment of the requested interexchange company deposit or pays fifty percent of the requested deposit and enters into payment arrangements as provided for in (a) of this subsection.

(6) A company may require an applicant or customer to pay a deposit or make advanced payments equal to two months' charges for ancillary service before providing or continuing ancillary services.

(7) A company may require an applicant or customer to pay a deposit if it finds that service was provided initially without a deposit based on incorrect information and the customer otherwise would have been required to pay a deposit.

(a) When a company requests a new deposit or a larger deposit amount after service has been established, the company must provide a written notice to the customer listing the reason(s) for the request, the date the deposit must be paid, and the actions the company may take if the deposit is not paid.

(b) Except for circumstances described in subsection (8) of this section, the deposit or additional deposit amount may not be due and payable before 5:00 p.m. of the sixth business day after notice of the deposit requirement is mailed or 5:00 p.m. of the second business day following delivery, if the notice is delivered in person to the customer.

(8)(a) A company authorized by the commission to collect deposits or advanced payments may require a customer to pay unbilled toll charges or pay a new or additional deposit amount when the customer's toll charges exceed thirty dollars, or exceed customary use over the previous six months by twenty dollars or by twenty percent, whichever is greater. A company may toll-restrict a customer's services if the customer is unable pay the toll or deposit amount.

(b) When a customer has exceeded the toll levels in (a) of this subsection, the company may require payment before the close of the next business day following delivery of either written or oral notice to the customer indicating that failure to pay one of the following may result in toll restriction of the customer's service. The company must give the customer the option to pay one of the following:

(i) All outstanding toll charges specified in the notice; or

(ii) All toll charges accrued to the time of payment providing the customer was notified the customer would be liable for all unbilled toll charges that accrued between the time of the notice and time of the payment; or

(iii) Payment of a new or additional deposit in light of the customer's actual use based upon two months' customary use.

(c) When an applicant does not have a customary utilization amount from a previous service, the company may request that the applicant estimate the greatest monthly toll amount the applicant expects to use. If the company asks for an estimate, it must explain that if the customer's toll charges exceed the amounts in (a) of this subsection, the company may toll restrict or require a deposit as permitted in this subsection.
 (9) When a residential applicant or customer cannot establish credit or cannot pay a deposit or deposit extended payments, the applicant or customer may furnish a guarantor who will secure payment of bills for service requested in a specified amount not to exceed the amount of required deposit. The company may require that the guarantor:

(a) Reside in the state of Washington;

(b) Currently have service with the company requesting the deposit; and

(c) Have an established satisfactory payment history for each class of service being guaranteed.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.36.010, 80.36.110, 80.36.320, 80.36.330, 80.36.333, 80.36.338, 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 07-08-027 (Docket UT-060676, General Order R-540), § 480-120-122, filed 3/27/07, effective 4/27/07. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 05-03-031 (Docket No. UT 040015, General Order No. R-516), § 480-120-122, filed 1/10/05, effective 2/10/05; WSR 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), § 480-120-122, filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03.]

**WAC 480-120-123 Establishing credit—Business services.** (1) As set forth in this section, a company may require a business applicant or customer to demonstrate satisfactory credit by reasonable means appropriate under the circumstances.

(2) **Amount of deposit.** When a company requests a deposit from an applicant or customer, the amount of the deposit may not exceed two months' customary use for an applicant or customer with previous verifiable service of the same class, or two months' estimated use for an applicant or customer without previous verifiable service. Customary use is calculated using charges for the previous three months' service.

(3) **Deposit payment.** Companies may withhold regulated services until the deposit amount associated with such services is paid in full.

(4) **Deposit requirement notice.**

(a) When a company requests a new deposit or a larger deposit amount after service has been established, the company must provide a written notice of the reasons for the request in writing to the customer, state the date the deposit must be paid, and the actions the company may take if the deposit is not paid.

(b) Except for circumstances described in subsection (5) of this section, the deposit or additional deposit amount may not be due and payable before 5:00 p.m. of the sixth business day after notice of the deposit requirement is mailed or 5:00 p.m. of the second business day following delivery if the notice is delivered in person to the customer.

**WAC 480-120-128 Deposit administration.** (1) **Transfer of deposit.** A company must transfer a customer's deposit, less any outstanding balance, from the account at one service address to another service address, when a customer moves to a new address, is required to pay a deposit, and continues to receive service from that company.

(2) **Interest on deposits.** Companies that collect customer deposits must pay interest on those deposits calculated:

(a) For each calendar year, at the rate for the one-year Treasury Constant Maturity as of November 15 of the previous year, as calculated by the U.S. Treasury and published in the Federal Reserve's Statistical Release H.15; and

(b) From the date of deposit to the date of refund or when applied directly to the customer's account.

(3) **Refunding deposits for retail services.** Companies must refund deposits, plus accrued interest, less any outstanding balance, to a retail customer when:

(a) A customer terminates service or services for which a deposit is being held.

A company is not required to refund an amount held on deposit when a customer requests a discontinuation of service or services but requests to establish similar service with a company for which the current deposit holder also provides billing and collection service. The new provider must have authority with the commission to collect deposits; or

(b) The customer has paid for service for twelve consecutive months in a prompt and satisfactory manner as evidenced by the following:

(i) The company has not issued a discontinuation notice against the customer's account for nonpayment during the last twelve months; and

(ii) The company has sent no more than two delinquency notices to the customer in the last twelve months.

(4) A company may apply a deposit refund to a customer's account or, upon customer request, must provide the refund in the form of a check issued and mailed to the customer no later than thirty days after satisfactory payment history is established or thirty days after the date the closing bill is paid when service is terminated.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.40.160. WSR 05-03-031 (Docket No. UT 040015, General Order No. R-516), § 480-120-128, filed 1/10/05, effective 2/10/05; WSR 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), § 480-120-128, filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03.]

**WAC 480-120-133 Response time for calls to business office or repair center during regular business hours.** (1) Calls placed to a company's business or repair center during regular business hours must be answered either by a live representative or an automated call answering system.

(2) Companies that use an automated answering system must comply with the following requirements:

(a) Each month, the average time until the automated system answers a call must not exceed thirty seconds; and

(b) The automated system must provide a caller with an option to speak to a live representative within the first sixty seconds of the recorded message, or it must transfer the caller to a live representative within the first sixty seconds.

(i) A company may provide the live representative option by directing the caller to take an affirmative action (e.g., select an entry on the telephone) or by default (e.g., be transferred when the caller does not select an option on the telephone).

(ii) The recorded message must clearly describe the method a caller must use to reach a live representative.

(c) Each month, the average time until a live representative answers a call must not exceed sixty seconds from the time a caller selects the appropriate option to speak to a live representative.

(3) Companies that do not use an automated answering system must answer at least ninety-nine percent of call attempts, each month, within thirty seconds.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), § 480-120-133, filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03.]

**WAC 480-120-146 Changing service providers from one local exchange company to another.** When a customer migrates from one local exchange company (LEC) to another, where applicable, the carriers involved must perform local number portability (LNP) in compliance with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)-approved method and time frame for disconnecting that service following the scheduled port under Title 47, Chapter I, Part 52.26 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Part 52.26 adopts the North American Numbering Council (NANC) recommendations on local number portability administration, "Working Group Report" with certain qualifications and additions. The effective date for 47 C.F.R. §52.26 is stated in WAC 480-120-999.

When the underlying carrier is providing local exchange services for resale by a LEC and then facilitates migration of that service to another LEC or back to itself, the underlying carrier shall notify the old LEC when the customer's service has been transferred.

The requirements of this section do not apply if the customer submitted the cancellation order directly to the LEC providing existing service.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040, 80.04.160, and 34.05.330. WSR 04-09-068 (Docket No. UT-030964, General Order No. R-513), § 480-120-146, filed 4/19/04, effective 5/20/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), § 480-120-146, filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03.]

**WAC 480-120-147 Changes in local exchange and intrastate toll services.** For the purpose of this section "subscriber" is any one of the following: The party identified in the account records of a common carrier as responsible for payment of the telephone bill; any adult person authorized by such party to change telecommunications services or to charge services to the account; or any person contractually or otherwise lawfully authorized to represent such party.

(1) **Verification of orders.** A local exchange or intrastate toll company that requests on behalf of a subscriber that the subscriber's company be changed, and that seeks to provide retail services to the subscriber (submitting company), may not submit a change-order for local exchange or intrastate toll service until the order is confirmed in accordance with one of the procedures in (a) through (c) of this subsection:

(a) The company has obtained the subscriber's written or electronic authorization to submit the order (letter of agency). The letter of agency must be a separate electronic form, located on a separate screen or web page, or a separate written document (or easily separable document) containing only the authorizing language described in (a)(i) through (vi) of this subsection, having the sole purpose of authorizing a telecommunications company to initiate a preferred company change. The letter of agency, whether written or electronic, must be signed and dated by the subscriber of the telephone line(s) requesting the preferred company change. The letter of agency must not be combined on the same document or on the same screen or web page with inducements of any kind; however, it may be combined with checks that contain only the required letter of agency language as prescribed in (a)(i) through (vi) of this subsection, and the necessary information to make the check a negotiable instrument. The check may not contain any promotional language or material. It must contain, in easily readable, boldface type on the front of the check, a notice that the subscriber is authorizing a preferred company change by signing the check. Letter-of-agency language must be placed near the signature line on the back of the check. Any company designated in a letter of agency as a preferred company must be the company directly setting the rates for the subscriber. If any portion of a letter of agency is translated into another language, then all portions must be translated into that language, as well as any promotional materials, oral descriptions or instructions provided with the letter of agency. The letter of agency must confirm the following information from the subscriber:

(i) The subscriber billing name, billing telephone number and billing address and each telephone number to be covered by the change order;

(ii) The decision to change;

(iii) The subscriber's understanding of the change fee;

(iv) That the subscriber designates (name of company) to act as the subscriber's agent for the preferred company change;

(v) That the subscriber understands that only one telecommunications company may be designated as the subscriber's intraLATA preferred company; that only one telecommunications company may be designated as the subscriber's interLATA preferred company; and that only one telecommunications company may be designated as the subscriber's local exchange provider, for any one telephone number. The letter of agency must contain a separate statement regarding the subscriber's choice for each preferred company, although a separate letter of agency for each choice is not necessary; and

(vi) Letters of agency may not suggest or require that a subscriber take some action in order to retain the current preferred company.

(b) The submitting company has obtained the subscriber's authorization, as described in (a) of this subsection, electronically, by use of an automated, electronic telephone menu system. This authorization must be placed from the telephone number(s) for which the preferred company is to be changed and must confirm the information required in (a)(i) through (vi) of this subsection.

Telecommunications companies electing to confirm the preferred company change electronically must establish one or more toll free telephone numbers exclusively for that purpose.

Calls to the number(s) must connect a subscriber to a voice response unit, or similar device, that records the required information regarding the change, including recording the originating automatic number identification (ANI).

(c) An appropriately qualified and independent third party operating in a location physically separate from the telemarketing representative has obtained the subscriber's oral authorization to submit the change order that confirms and includes appropriate verification data (e.g., the subscriber's date of birth). A company or a company's sales representative initiating a three-way conference call or a call through an automated verification system must drop off the call once the three-way connection with the third-party verifier has been established. The independent third party must not be owned, managed, controlled or directed by the company or the company's marketing agent; and must not have any financial incentive to confirm preferred company change orders for the company or the company's marketing agent. The content of the verification must include clear and unambiguous confirmation that the subscriber has authorized a preferred company change, and the date of the verification.

(2) Where a telecommunications company is selling more than one type of telecommunications service (e.g., local exchange, intraLATA toll, and interLATA toll) that company must obtain separate authorization, and separate verification, from the subscriber for each service sold, although the authorizations may be made within the same solicitation.

(3) The documentation regarding a subscriber's authorization for a preferred company change must be retained by the submitting company, at a minimum, for two years to serve as verification of the subscriber's authorization to change his or her telecommunications company. The documentation must be made available to the subscriber and to the commission upon request and at no charge. Documentation includes, but is not limited to, entire third-party-verification conversations and, for written verifications, the entire verification document.

(4) **Implementing order changes.** An executing company may not verify directly with the subscriber the submission of a change in a subscriber's selection of a provider received from a submitting company. The executing company must comply promptly, without any unreasonable delay, with a requested change that is complete and received from a submitting company. An executing company is any telecommunications company that affects a request that a subscriber's company be changed. Except as provided by contract, a telecommunications company must submit a preferred company change order on behalf of a subscriber within no more than sixty days of obtaining authorization.

This section does not prohibit any company from investigating and responding to any subscriber-initiated inquiry or complaint.

(5) **Preferred carrier freezes.** A preferred carrier freeze prevents a change in a subscriber's preferred company selection unless the subscriber gives the company from whom the freeze was requested express consent. Express consent means direct, written, electronic, or oral direction by the subscriber. All local exchange companies (LECs) must offer preferred carrier freezes. Such freezes must be offered on a nondiscriminatory basis to all subscribers. Offers or solicitations for such freezes must clearly distinguish among telecommunications services subject to a freeze (e.g., local exchange, intraLATA toll, and interLATA toll). The carrier offering the freeze must obtain separate authorization for each service for which a preferred carrier freeze is requested. Separate authorizations may be contained within a single document.

(a) All LECs must notify all subscribers of the availability of a preferred carrier freeze, no later than the subscriber's first telephone bill, and once per year must notify all local exchange service subscribers of such availability on an individual subscriber basis (e.g., bill insert, bill message, or direct mailing).

(b) All company-provided solicitation and other materials regarding freezes must include an explanation, in clear and neutral language, of what a preferred carrier freeze is, and what services may be subject to a freeze; a description of the specific procedures to lift a preferred carrier freeze; an explanation that the subscriber will be unable to make a change in company selection unless he or she lifts the freeze; and an explanation of any charges incurred for implementing or lifting a preferred carrier freeze.

(c) No local exchange company may implement a preferred carrier freeze unless the subscriber's request to impose a freeze has first been confirmed in accordance with the procedures outlined for confirming a change in preferred company, as described in subsections (1) and (2) of this section.

(d) All LECs must offer subscribers, at a minimum, the following procedures for lifting a preferred carrier freeze:

(i) A subscriber's written or electronic authorization stating the subscriber's intent to lift the freeze;

(ii) A subscriber's oral authorization to lift the freeze. This option must include a mechanism that allows a submitting company to conduct a three-way conference call with the executing company and the subscriber in order to lift the freeze. When engaged in oral authorization to lift a freeze, the executing company must confirm appropriate verification data (e.g., the subscriber's date of birth), and the subscriber's intent to lift the freeze.

(iii) The LEC must lift the freeze within three business days of the subscriber request.

(e) A LEC may not change a subscriber's preferred company if the subscriber has a freeze in place, unless the subscriber has lifted the freeze in accordance with this subsection.

(6) **Remedies.** In addition to any other penalties provided by law, a submitting company that requests a change in a subscriber's company without proper verification as described in this rule must receive no payment for service provided as a result of the unauthorized change and must promptly refund any amounts collected as a result of the unauthorized change. The subscriber may be charged, after receipt of the refund, for such service at a rate no greater than what would have been charged by its authorized telecommunications company, and any such payment must be remitted to the subscriber's authorized telecommunications company.

(7) **Exceptions.** Companies transferring subscribers as a result of a merger, purchase of the company, or purchase of a specific subscriber base are exempt from subsections (1) through (6) of this section if the companies comply with the following conditions and procedures:

(a) The acquiring company must provide a notice to each affected subscriber at least thirty days before the date of transfer. Such notice must include the following information:

(i) The date on which the acquiring company will become the subscriber's new provider;

(ii) The rates, terms, and conditions of the service(s) to be provided upon transfer, and the means by which the acquiring company will notify the subscriber of any change(s) to those rates, terms, and conditions;

(iii) That the acquiring company will be responsible for any company change charges associated with the transfer;

(iv) The subscriber's right to select a different company to provide the service(s);

(v) That the subscriber will be transferred even if the subscriber has selected a "freeze" on his/her company choices, unless the subscriber chooses another company before the transfer date;

(vi) That, if the subscriber has a "freeze" on company choices, the freeze will be lifted at the time of transfer and the subscriber must "refreeze" company choices;

(vii) How the subscriber may make a complaint prior to or during the transfer; and

(viii) The toll-free customer service telephone number of the acquiring company.

(b) The acquiring company must provide a notice to the commission at least thirty days before the date of the transfer. Such notice must include the following information:

(i) The names of the parties to the transaction;

(ii) The types of services affected;

(iii) The date of the transfer; and

(iv) That the company has provided advance notice to affected subscribers, including a copy of such notice.

(c) If after filing notice with the commission any material changes develop, the acquiring company must file written notice of those changes with the commission no more than ten days after the transfer date announced in the prior notice. The commission may, at that time, require the company to provide additional notice to affected subscribers regarding such changes.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 05-03-031 (Docket No. UT 040015, General Order No. R-516), § 480-120-147, filed 1/10/05, effective 2/10/05. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040, 80.04.160, 81.04.160, and 34.05.353. WSR 03-22-046 (Docket No. A-030832, General Order No. R-509), § 480-120-147, filed 10/29/03, effective 11/29/03. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), § 480-120-147, filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03.]

**WAC 480-120-148**