

NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD

Issued: October 31, 2018

In the Matter of a Commission Inquiry into Financial Information to be Filed Concurrently with Annual High Cost Universal Service Filings Required Pursuant to 47 C.F.R § 54.313.

PUC Docket Number(s): P999/CI-18-652

Comment Period: Initial comment period closes November 30, 2018 at 4:30pm
Reply comment period closes December 12, 2018 at 4:30pm

Comments received after the close of the comment period may or may not be considered by the Commission.

Topic(s) Open for Comment:

- Shall the Commission require in future years that each company subject to state certification file a financial summary along with the financial affidavit filed concurrently with the FCC Form 481 filing?
- Shall a working group of stakeholders meet to discuss the form and content of such a financial summary? If so, what would the purpose of the group be? Who would be included in such a stakeholder group?
- Are there other issues or concerns related to this matter?

Background:

Under the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, telecommunications carriers must be designated “eligible telecommunication carriers” (ETCs) to qualify for subsidies from the federal Universal Service Fund for serving high-cost areas or low-income consumers. ETCs must annually file Form 481 with the FCC, which certifies that use of their funds associated with high-cost support complies with 47 C.F.R § 54.313.

State commissions must annually certify to the FCC that all high-cost support provided to state-designated ETCs was used in the preceding calendar year, and will be used in the coming year, only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. The most recent proceeding to address this was Docket No. P-999/PR-18-8.

In its October 24, 2018 Order Certifying ETCs Use of Federal High-Cost Subsidy and Requiring Comment Period, the Commission directed the future filing of an affidavit specified in that Order which had been proposed by the Department of Commerce (Department). The Commission also Ordered further inquiry into a Financial Summary that the Department had proposed be attached to the affidavit. The financial summary that is the subject of this inquiry does not pertain to wireless ETCs.

Filing Requirements: Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are **required** to file documents using the Commission’s electronic filing system (eFiling). All parties, participants and interested persons are encouraged to use eFiling: mn.gov/puc, select *eFiling*, and follow the prompts.

Submit Public Comments: Visit mn.gov/puc, select *Speak Up!* to find this docket, and add your comments to the discussion or email your comments to consumer.puc@state.mn.us.

Full Case Record: See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission’s website at mn.gov/puc, select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (18) and the docket number (652), select *Search*.

Subscribe to receive email notification when new documents are filed in this docket at mn.gov/puc, select *Subscribe*, or click [HERE](#) and follow the prompts.

Questions about this docket or Commission process and procedure? Contact Commission staff, Michael McCarthy, at [651-201-2208](tel:651-201-2208) or Michael.mccarthy@state.mn.us.

Change your mailing preferences: Email docketing.puc@state.mn.us or call Leesa Norton at 651-201-2246.

To request this document in another format such as large print or audio, call 651.296.0406 (voice). Persons with a hearing or speech impairment may call using their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service or email consumer.puc@state.mn.us for assistance.