

## NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD

Issued: April 19, 2019

**In the Matter of Telecommunications Access Minnesota (TAM) 2018 Annual Report**

**In the Matter of the Department of Commerce's TAM FY 2020 Budget and Surcharge Recommendations**

**PUC Docket Number(s):** P999/PR-19-5  
P999/M-19-151

**Comment Period:** Comment period closes May 9, 2019 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:**

- Should the Commission accept TAM's 2018 Annual Report?
- Should the Commission approve TAM's proposed budget for FY 2020?
- Should the Commission approve the proposed TAM surcharge increase from \$0.05 to \$0.06?
- Are there other issues or concerns related to this matter?

### **Background:**

The Telecommunications Access Minnesota (TAM) program was created in 1987 to make Minnesota's telecommunications system accessible to individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind, speech disabled or physically disabled. Minnesota Statutes Sections 237.50 – 237.56 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 8775 govern the operation of the program.

The program has two major components: the Telephone Equipment Distribution (TED) program and the Minnesota Relay. TED distributes specialized telecommunications equipment to eligible deaf, hard-of-hearing, speech-impaired and mobility-impaired persons to allow them access to the telecommunications network. The Minnesota Relay is a federally mandated relay service that allows functionally equivalent communications between a person with a hearing or speech disability and any other telephone user.

TAM is funded by a monthly surcharge on all wired and wireless access lines, the most recent change being from \$0.07 to \$0.05 on August 1, 2016, where it remains. The present proposal would raise the surcharge to \$0.06.

The Minnesota Relay and TED programs are administered by TAM within the Department of Commerce in conjunction with the Department of Human Services and others. Each year the Department reports on the previous year's program activity to the Commission, proposes the next fiscal year's budget and recommends the surcharge amount.

**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](http://mn.gov/puc), select *eFiling*, and follow the prompts.

**Submit Public Comments:** Visit [mn.gov/puc](http://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](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us).

**Full Case Record:** See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission's website at [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (19) and the docket number (5) or number (151), select *Search*.

**Subscribe** to receive email notification when new documents are filed in this docket at [mn.gov/puc](http://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 [michael.mccarthy@state.mn.us](mailto:michael.mccarthy@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2208.

**Change your mailing preferences:** Email [docketing.puc@state.mn.us](mailto: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](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us) for assistance.