

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WYOMING

IN THE MATTER OF THE FUNDING)

REQUIREMENT AND PROPOSED) DOCKET NO. 90072-XO-00-13

ASSESSMENT FACTOR FOR THE) (RECORD NO. 5690)

7/00-6/01 FISCAL YEAR OF THE)

WYOMING UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND)

NOTICE AND ORDER ESTABLISHING A WYOMING UNIVERSAL

SERVICE FUND ASSESSMENT LEVEL

(Issued April 27, 2000)

This matter is before the Commission for the purpose of establishing a Wyoming Universal Service Fund assessment level pursuant to the provisions of W.S. § 37-15-501 and Section 500(m) of the Commission's Procedural Rules and Special Regulations. The Commission, having reviewed its files, the reports filed by the fund manager, as well as all applicable law, hereby FINDS and CONCLUDES:

1. This matter was initiated by the Commission, upon its own motion, for the purpose of establishing a Wyoming Universal Service Fund assessment level to be effective for the twelve-month period beginning July 1, 2000, pursuant to the provisions of Section 500(m) of the Commission's Procedural Rules and Special Regulations.
2. The fund manager submitted a report to the Commission which detailed the computation of a recommended assessment level based upon the estimated amount to be paid out of the Wyoming Universal Service Fund. This report, which is required pursuant to the provisions of Section 500(l) of the Commission's Procedural Rules and Special Regulations, recommended an assessment level of 2.0%.
3. The following table lists the anticipated fund distribution obligations beginning for the 2000 fiscal year:

Item	Amount
Support Payments	\$ 6,900,000.00
Administration Fees	\$ 45,000.00
Auditing Expense	\$ 65,000.00
Contingency Allowance	\$ 350,500.00
Draw Upon Prior Year Surplus	\$ 3,000,000.00
Net Funding Requirement	\$ 4,360,500.00
Reported Intrastate Revenues	\$220,000,000.00
Required Assessment	1.98%

4. The Wyoming Universal Service Fund is currently operating at a surplus. This surplus was taken into account, by the fund manager, in the preparation of the recommended assessment level. The majority of the Commission has determined that drawing upon \$3,000,000.00 of this surplus, in order to meet projected funding requirements, is appropriate. Deputy Chairman Furtney dissented from the majority opinion stating his belief that \$4,000,000.00 of the

surplus should be drawn in order to meet projected funding requirements. This additional draw upon the existing surplus would result in an assessment factor of approximately 1.6%.

5. Section 500(l) of the Commission's Procedural Rules and Special Regulations provides that the Wyoming Universal Service Fund charge shall be assessed as a separate line item on each customer's bill, unless a specific waiver is granted by the Commission. Customers desiring to compute the level of charge which they may expect to incur on their monthly bill may contact their telecommunications provider or the Commission during regular business hours.

6. The documents supporting the recommended assessment level are on file with the Commission at its offices located in Cheyenne, Wyoming. The publicly available portions of these documents may be inspected by any interested person during regular business hours.

7. Anyone desiring to file a statement, representation, protest or request a hearing with regard to this matter must do so on or before June 15, 2000.

8. If you wish to intervene in this matter and/or request a public hearing, which you will attend, and you require reasonable accommodation for a disability, please contact the Wyoming Public Service Commission at (307) 777-7427 in Cheyenne, during regular business hours or write to them at 2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 300, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002 to make arrangements. Communications impaired persons may contact the Commission by accessing Wyoming Relay (TDD/TT) at 1-800-577-9965. Please mention the docket number in your communications. Please contact us as soon as possible to help us serve you better.

9. The Commission directs that the public notice in this matter be in the following form:

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Wyoming Public Service Commission has established the Wyoming Universal Service Fund assessment level, to be effective for the twelve-month period beginning July 1, 2000, at 2% of gross intrastate retail revenues for both business and residential telecommunications services. The Wyoming Universal Service Fund was established by the Wyoming Telecommunications Act of 1995 and designed to ensure that no subscriber of telecommunications services, within the state of Wyoming, would be required to pay more than 130% of the statewide average rate for essential telecommunications services.

You may review the publicly available portions of all documents relating to the Wyoming Universal Service Fund at the Commission's offices in Cheyenne during regular business hours. Customers desiring to compute the level of charge which they may expect to incur on their monthly bill may contact their telecommunications provider or the Commission during regular business hours.

To request a hearing, file a statement or protest this action, you must file with the Commission, mentioning Docket No. 90072-XO-00-13, on or before June 15, 2000.

If you wish to participate and require reasonable accommodation for a disability, call the Commission at (307) 777-7427 or write to them at 2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 300, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002. Communications impaired persons may contact the Commission through Wyoming Relay at 1-800-877-9965.

Dated April 27, 2000.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. Pursuant to open meeting action taken on April 25, 2000, the Commission hereby establishes the Wyoming Universal Service Fund assessment level, to be effective for the twelve-month period beginning July 1, 2000, at 2% of gross intrastate retail revenues for both business and residential telecommunications services, subject to notice, protest, opportunity for hearing and further order as the Commission may deem necessary.

2. The above-described assessment level shall be applicable to all billings rendered on and after July 1, 2000.

MADE and ENTERED at Cheyenne, Wyoming this 27th day of April, 2000.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WYOMING

STEVE ELLENBECKER, Chairman

KRISTIN H. LEE, Commissioner (SEAL)

ATTEST:

IVAN H. WILLIAMS, Assistant Secretary