- BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH -

Investigation, Re: Utah Universal Public Telecommunications Support Fund Disbursements	DOCKET NO. 24-999-10 NOTICE OF PARTIAL POSTPONEMENT OF TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

ISSUED: June 16, 2026

On May 21, 2026, the Public Service Commission (PSC) issued a Notice of Technical Conference ("May 2026 Notice"). That notice outlined several topics and issues the PSC expected the state's rate-of-return regulated rural telecommunications utilities ("RILEC"), or their representatives, and the Division of Public Utilities (DPU) to address. One of these topics concerned the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment ("BEAD") program (the "BEAD Issues").

On June 2, 2026, legal counsel for the Utah Rural Telecom Association ("URTA") filed a statement and request for clarification regarding the May 2026 Notice ("Statement").[1] Among other things, the Statement advises that,

> to the extent the [PSC] seeks to discuss company-specific information such as that contained in the Annual Report, revenues, expenses, customer counts, network deployment plans, future investment plans, or similar operational or financial information, URTA anticipates that each RLEC will file a claim of confidentiality as contemplated in the Notice to protect confidential, competitively sensitive, and/or protected commercial information under applicable law and [PSC] practice."[2]

[1] According to the Statement, URTA's members include: All West Communications, Inc.; Bear Lake Communications, Inc.; Beehive Telephone Company; Carbon/Emery Telcom, Inc; Central Utah Telephone, Inc.; Direct Communications Cedar Valley, LLC; E Fiber Moab, LLC; E Fiber San Juan, LLC; Emery Telephone; Gunnison Telephone Company; Hanksville Telcom, Inc.; Manti Telephone Company; Skyline Telcom, Inc.; South Central Utah Telephone Association, Inc.; UBTA-UBET Communications Inc. dba Strata Networks; and Union Telephone Company (the "URTA Members").
[2] Statement at 6.

The Statement expresses no concerns about the BEAD Issues.

Consistent with the confidentiality assertion by URTA, the PSC subsequently received filings titled "Notification of Confidentiality" from each of the URTA Members, except Direct Communications Cedar Valley, LLC and Union Telephone Company. Like the Statement, no Notice of Confidentiality expresses concerns about the BEAD Issue. However, each Notification of Confidentiality, which are substantially the same, asserts that certain information responsive to other topics and issues in the May 2026 Notice is highly confidential. However, the May 2026 Notice specifically requested that any RILEC believing any of the information requested in the May 2026 Notice is confidential "must notify the PSC[]" and such "notification must … include a[n explanation as to] ***why such information or data should be treated as confidential under the applicable PSC rules.***"[3] No Notification of Confidentiality provides any explanation as to why the claimed information is highly confidential, and thus no RILEC has made a showing allowing the PSC to make an appropriate determination as to whether such claimed information should be excluded from the public record.

Accordingly, the currently scheduled technical conference for June 18, 2026 is partially postponed. Specifically, that technical conference will proceed as scheduled with respect to the BEAD Issues. However, that technical conference is otherwise postponed with respect to the non-BEAD related topics and issue. In this regard,

[3] May 2026 Notice at 4 (emphasis added).

counsel for URTA is directed, on behalf of the URTA Members, to file with the PSC a more detailed statement explaining in detail why the RILECs believe the non-BEAD related information outlined in the May 2026 Notice should be considered highly confidential and excluded from the public record in this docket. Alternatively, if any specific RILEC has specific reasons different from other URTA Members' reasons for a belief that the non-BEAD related information outlined in the May 2026 Notice should be considered highly confidential, that RILEC shall separately file with the PSC a statement explaining in detail why it believes that information should be considered highly confidential and excluded from the public record in this docket.

This filing by URTA's counsel, or any specific RILEC, shall be made **by Thursday, June 25, 2026.**

DATED at Salt Lake City, Utah, June 16, 2026.

/s/ John E. Delaney
Presiding Officer

Attest:

/s/ Gary L. Widerburg
PSC Secretary
DW#345795

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I CERTIFY that on June 16, 2026, a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served upon the following as indicated below:

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