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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

<p>IN THE MATTER OF THE UTAH DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES' PETITION FOR INCREASED USE DISTRIBUTIONS TO HANKSVILLE TELECOM, INC.</p>	<p>Docket No. 14-2303-01</p> <p>DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES' RESPONSE TO URTA's COMMENTS AND CONDITIONAL PETITION TO INTERVENE</p>
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Pursuant to Utah Code Ann. § 54-4a-1 and Utah Admin. Code r746-100-4 the Division of Public Utilities (Division) submits this following Response to URTA's Comments and Conditional Petition to Intervene. The Division does not object to the intervention of URTA and requests that the Commission not open a formal rule making docket at this time.

On July 21, 2014 the Office of Consumer Services filed comments in the current docket. Within those comments the Office generally supported the idea of a streamlined USF process and included a policy statement on procedure. The Office commented concerning what it viewed as a reasonable set of suggested requirements for expedited USF filings and recommended a comprehensive process for the interested parties to participate in establishing a procedure.

URTA, representing an association of rural telephone companies requested intervention as a result because its members may be interested in and affected by the outcome if the Commission were to rule on the Office's proposal in this docket. URTA requested that the Commission open a new rule making proceeding to address these issues.

The Division does not object to the intervention of URTA as a party to this Docket. However, the Division does believe that the request by URTA to open a rule making docket at this time would be premature. While a rule making docket may be appropriate in the future, at this time the Division believes that the Office, Division, URTA, and others can work together informally outside of the confines of a docket to attempt to resolve the issues raised by the Office in its comments. While the Division agrees that it may be necessary to set additional rules for this type of pre-evaluated USF request at some future time, it would be premature to do so at this time given the novelty of this approach. In discussions regarding this issue the Office has represented that it will not seek to litigate or seek final resolution of the proposed requirements in this docket.

Because the parties will not seek a binding order in this docket that will apply new requirements to future USF applications of URTA members the Division believes time for informal discussion between the parties is preferable to a new structured rulemaking docket. In the event that the parties cannot informally resolve the issues at hand, the Division will be amenable to a rule making proceeding if the Commission so desires.

Submitted this 4th day of August, 2014.

/s/ Justin C. Jetter

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