



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

PUBLIC COMMENTS -- DOCKET NO. 22-049-62

1 message

Kathy Van Dame <dvd.kvd@juno.com>
To: psc@utah.gov

Thu, Feb 16, 2023 at 2:20 PM

State of Utah
Public Service Commission
[160 E. 300 South](#), 4 th Floor
Salt Lake City, UT 84111
SUBJECT: DOCKET No. 22-049-62

Dear Commissioners and Staff:

As a senior who has been using land lines for many decades, I am writing to ask that Qwest not be given an exemption to their carrier of last resort obligation. I fear this petition is the camel's nose; that Qwest is considering ways to get out of the less-profitable land line business. I believe land lines remain an important public good.

I regret I didn't notice this docket until after New Year's, & further missed the scheduling conference detail that it was remote only. I realized this when I showed up at the 4th floor conference room on January 18 and no one was there. I was not prepared to participate remotely.

Since then, I have been following this docket closely enough to note the cancellation of the public witness day. I don't understand the implications of that cancellation, but I am making this opportunity to share my concerns & explain why I think it is important to maintain availability of land line service in Utah.

As I see by Qwest's Exhibit 1, in 2019, approximately 25% of Utahns were willing to pay the additional cost for a land line when they also had cell phone service. I, like other Utahns, choose to pay the premium for a land line to preserve that service for myself & others. I note:

1. A land line is self powered. A family member in Florida went days, during & after Hurricane Ian, with no cell phone or internet access, but had land line service continuously.
2. Legal privacy protections are greater with a landline. A warrant is needed for a wiretap & no information vacuum is able harvest my cell tower data that can be used or sold regardless of my consent & without legal oversight.
3. Cell phone technology is rapidly evolving & people can be forced into purchases, as we were recently when our old TV's quit working.
4. As one example, I was recently forced to buy a new cell phone, because my old one's battery was swollen & unsafe to use. I couldn't replace the battery because they are no longer available. I discovered, after I left the cell phone store, that I didn't know how to answer my new phone, because of my lack of experience with that new format. I was deprived of phone service because of technical obsolescent & inexperience with newer technology. I could afford a new phone, and tech support, but there are folks that are deprived of service because of financial reasons or technical ignorance. My land line works the same year after year, and doesn't have a lithium battery that can become a hazard as my old cell phone's battery did.
5. I echo previous comments about 911 call location determination.

Please ensure that any decision in regards to Qwest's petition does not contribute to the end of land line service.

Peace, Kathy Van Dame

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