

Decision No. R04-0157-I

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

DOCKET NO. 98M-147T

REGARDING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE COLORADO HIGH COST FUND AND
THE ADOPTION OF A PROXY COST MODEL.

**INTERIM ORDER OF
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
KEN F. KIRKPATRICK
ACCEPTING STATUS REPORT,
VACATING HEARING, AND
REQUESTING COMMENT**

Mailed Date: February 11, 2004

I. STATEMENT

1. A status hearing in this proceeding was established by Decision No. R03-0923-I, August 15, 2003. That decision noted that the hearing may be vacated should an adequate status report be filed in advance of the hearing.

2. On February 10, 2004, Staff of the Commission (Staff) filed its Motion to Accept Staff's February 2004 Status Report in Lieu of Status Hearing and Request for Waiver of Response Time. Attached to this Motion is a status report outlining the activities of the parties since the last status report.

3. It appears from the status report that parties are continuing to seek accurate geocode customer specific addresses to create input in the proper forms for the HCPN and HAI models. The parties hope that the cost of this will be paid for out of the High Cost Support Mechanism Administration Fund. Staff anticipates that the necessary work will be complete and the data available for use to determine the 2006 High Cost Support amount. The Status Report

goes on to suggest a proxy cost model approach for the 2005 support calculation. This would be similar to the 2004 methodology.¹

4. Staff's Status Report indicates that it has not been able to research or request customer location information from wireless parties since they are not parties to this proceeding. It would appear that this may be the proper time to open a new docket to address the 2006 and later years' cost methodologies with input from the wireless providers. One possibility would be to leave this docket open for a determination of the proper cost model for 2005, then closing this docket. The new docket would deal only with the cost models and resulting high cost support for the years 2006 and later. The parties to this proceeding are requested to comment within 14 days of the effective date of this order on such a procedure, or to suggest alternatives.

II. ORDER

A. It Is Ordered That:

1. The status hearing in this matter scheduled for February 12, 2004 is vacated. The next status hearing remains scheduled for May 13, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. in a Commission hearing room in Denver, Colorado.

2. Parties to this proceeding shall have 14 days from the effective date of this Order to offer comment concerning the procedural future of this docket, and specifically whether a new docket should be opened to address high cost support models for the year 2006 on a going forward basis that would include wireless providers.

¹ The methodology can be established in this proceeding for the 2005 year. However, the parties would have to file a stipulation for approval, separate and apart from the status reports filed by Staff.

3. This Order shall be effective immediately.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

Administrative Law Judge