Review of Universal Service and Energy Conservation Programs

M-2017-2596907

On May 10, 2017, the Public Utility Commission (Commission) entered an Opinion and Order at *Review of Universal Service and Energy Conservation Programs*, Docket No. M-2017-2596907, which initiated a comprehensive review of the universal service and energy conservation model. The model includes customer assistance programs (CAPs), low-income usage reduction programs (LIURPs), customer assistance and referral evaluation services (CARES), and hardship funds.

The Commission has released a staff report on the statutory, regulatory, and policy frameworks of the universal service and energy conservation model and the steps required to initiate any proposed changes. This report was released on July 14, 2017, at the same docket.

The Commission has received written comments from interested parties outlining their priorities, concerns, and suggested changes to regulations and policies for universal service and energy conservation model. The deadline for submitting comments was August 8, 2017. The order, staff report, and comments may be viewed on the Commission’s website at this link: <http://www.puc.pa.gov/about_puc/consolidated_case_view.aspx?Docket=M-2017-2596907>.

The Commission’s Bureau of Consumer Services (BCS) will coordinate a stakeholder meeting to allow interested parties an opportunity to provide feedback on the filed comments and on any other priorities, concerns, or suggested changes pertaining to the universal service and energy conservation model.

The stakeholder meeting will be held on September 13th and 14th, 2017, at the Keystone Building, Hearing Room 1, in Harrisburg. The session on September 13th will convene from 1pm to 5pm, and the session on September 14th will convene from 8am to 12pm. An agenda will be posted on the Commission website at this docket prior to the meeting. Stakeholders planning to attend the meeting should RSVP with Joseph Magee at jmagee@pa.gov. You may attend one or both days. A call-in bridge may be available.

Following the stakeholder meeting, interested parties may file reply comments to address the filed comments and any issues discussed at the stakeholder meeting. Reply comments are due by October 16, 2017. Copies of reply comments must also be emailed in Word-compatible format to RA-PCLAW-LIURP@pa.gov.