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PROJECT NO. 40342
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS
NOTICE OF WORKSHOP

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FILING CLERK

The Staff of the Public Utility Commission of Texas will hold a workshop on Tuesday, January 15, 2013, to discuss amendments to P.U.C. Substantive Rule §26.403 relating to the Texas High Cost Universal Service Plan (THCUSP). The proposed amendments to P.U.C. Substantive Rule §26.403 are pursuant to the direction of the Commission at the Open Meeting of January 26, 2012 in Project No. 39937. A draft rule illustrating such potential amendments is attached.

Parties should note that the draft illustrative rule contains proposed amendments that: (1) offer three options for a definition of "high cost rural area"; and (2) specify a mechanism by which support from the THCUSP would be eliminated over a transition period in a wire center that is not a high cost rural area. The purpose of the workshop will be to discuss the proposed amendments.

The workshop will begin at 9:30 A.M. in the Commissioner's Hearing Room, located on the 7th floor of the William B. Travis Building, 1701 North Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas 78701. Project Number 40342, Rulemaking Proceeding to Amend Subst. R. §26.403 Relating to the Texas High Cost Universal Service Plan has been established for this proceeding. Interested parties who wish to comment on Staff's proposed draft rule or to propose alternative language must file 16 copies of such proposals with Central Records no later than 4:00 P.M. on Tuesday, January 11, 2013. Comments should be limited to no more than ten pages.

Questions concerning the workshop or this notice should be referred to Fred Goodwin, Competitive Markets Division, at (512) 936-7454 or at fred.goodwin@puc.texas.gov. Hearing and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the commission at (512) 936-7136.