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DOCKET NO. 43816

RECEIVED

**APPLICATION OF MID-PLAINS §
RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, §
INC. FOR APPROVAL OF A NEW §
DEPRECIATION RATE PURSUANT §
TO PUC SUBST. R. 26.206 §**

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF TEXAS**

2014 DEC -3 PM 12:50

UTILITY DIVISION
FILING CLERK

COMMISSION STAFF’S RESPONSE TO ORDER NO. 1

COMES NOW the Staff of the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Staff), representing the public interest and files this response to Order No. 1 and would show the following.

Background: On November 19, 2014, Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (Mid-Plains) filed an application to establish a depreciation rate for a new class of property, Account 2114.300 - Tools and Other Work Equipment - Heavy Equipment. Mid-Plains proposed a depreciation rate of 16%, which reflects an estimated economic life of five years and an estimated net salvage of 20%.

Commission Staff’s Comments Regarding Sufficiency: Order No. 1 directs Staff to file comments regarding the adequacy of Mid-Plains’ notification for adoption and compliance with P.U.C. SUBST. R. 26.206. As set forth in the attached memorandum of Jolie Mathis, Utility Analyst – Infrastructure and Reliability Division, Staff has determined that Mid-Plains’ application is sufficient for purposes of review.

Proposed Procedural Schedule: Staff and Applicant jointly propose the following procedural Schedule below:

Proposed Procedural Schedule	
Filing of Affidavits	December 12, 2014
Intervention Deadline	January 5, 2014
Last Day to Issue Discovery Requests	January 8, 2014
Deadline for Staff’s Recommendation or Referral to SOAH	January 22, 2014
Deadline for Applicant to Respond or Request a Hearing	January 29, 2014

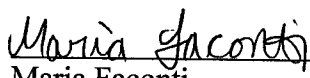
Conclusion: Staff respectfully requests that an order be issued consistent with these comments and proposed schedule.

Dated: December 3, 2014

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Uhlig Pemberton
Division Director-Legal Division

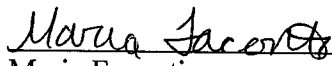
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of this document will be served on all parties of record on December 3, 2014, in accordance with P.U.C. Procedural Rule 22.74.



Maria Faconti

Public Utility Commission of Texas

Memorandum

TO: Maria Faconti
Attorney, Legal Division

FROM: Jolie Mathis *JM by JAL*
Engineering Specialist
Infrastructure and Reliability Division

DATE: December 3, 2014

RE: **Docket 43816 – Application of Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. for Approval of a New Depreciation Rate Pursuant to P.U.C. SUBST. R. 26.206.**

On November 19, 2014 Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (Mid-Plains) filed with the Commission an application to establish a new depreciation rate for a new class of property, Account 2114.300 – Tools and Other Work Equipment – Heavy Equipment. Mid-Plains' application was filed pursuant to P.U.C. SUBST. R. §26.206 (c). Commission Staff (Staff) has reviewed Mid-Plains' application and, pursuant to Order No. 1, files this memorandum regarding the sufficiency of the application.

P.U.C. SUBST. R. §26.206(c) sets forth certain criteria that must be provided by the carrier when filing an application with the Commission. Staff has reviewed the application and has determined that the required information is included in the application. Therefore, Staff recommends that the application be deemed sufficient for the purposes of substantive review.