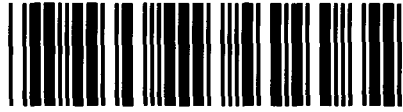




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APPLICATION OF BLOSSOM §  
TELEPHONE COMPANY TO §  
RECOVER FUNDS FROM THE §  
TEXAS UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND §

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

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PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF TEXAS  
CLERK

**COMMISSION STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION ON SUFFICIENCY OF APPLICATION AND NOTICE**

COMES NOW the Staff of the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Staff), representing the public interest, and files this Commission Staff's Recommendation on Sufficiency of Application and Notice and would show the following:

**I. BACKGROUND**

On November 29, 2017, Blossom Telephone Company (Blossom) filed a petition pursuant to the requirements of Section 56.025 of PURA<sup>1</sup> and 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 26.406. Blossom seeks recovery of funds from the Texas Universal Service Fund (TUSF) due to Federal Communications Commission (FCC) actions resulting in a reduction in the Federal Universal Service Fund (FUSF) revenues available to Blossom. The petition requests that the Commission allow recovery of funds from the TUSF in the amount of \$158,838 for 2017 to replace FUSF revenue reductions.

On December 7, 2017, Order No. 1 was entered, requiring Staff to file a recommendation on the sufficiency of the application, notice, and a proposed procedural schedule by December 15, 2017. Therefore, this pleading is timely filed.

**II. SUFFICIENCY OF THE APPLICATION**

Pursuant to 16 TAC § 22.2(6), Blossom's application is an application to the Commission to initiate a proceeding. Accordingly, Blossom must satisfy the procedural requirements for an application as set forth in 16 TAC § 22.73. Additionally, Blossom's application must satisfy the requirements of 16 TAC § 26.406(c)(2), which implements PURA § 56.025. Staff recommends that Blossom's application does satisfy the requirements for applications under 16 TAC § 22.73 and 16 TAC § 26.406(c)(2), and is therefore sufficient to initiate this proceeding before the

<sup>1</sup> Public Utility Regulatory Act, Tex. Util. Code § 56.025 (West 2017).

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Commission. Staff will file its recommendation concerning the merits of the application as required by the procedural schedule established for this proceeding.

### III. NOTICE

Notice of the application will be submitted to the *Texas Register* for publication on December 22, 2017. Staff recommends that *Texas Register* notice is sufficient and no additional notice is required.<sup>2</sup>

### IV. PROPOSED PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

Event	Date
Deadline to Intervene	January 13, 2018 <sup>3</sup>
Deadline for intervenor comments or to request a hearing	January 30, 2018
Deadline for Staff to request a hearing or to file a recommendation on final disposition	February 27, 2018
Deadline for Blossom to request a hearing. If no hearing is requested, deadline for parties to file an agreed proposed order.	March 10, 2018

### V. CONCLUSION

Staff respectfully requests than an order be issued finding the application sufficient and adopting Staff's proposed procedural schedule.

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<sup>2</sup> See 16 TAC § 22.55

<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to 16 TAC § 22.104(b), the default intervention deadline is forty-five (45) days from the date of the filing of an application. Forty-five (45) days from the application filing date (November 29, 2017) is Saturday, January 13, 2018. In addition, Monday, January 15, 2018 is a state observed holiday. Therefore, the intervention deadline advances to the next business day, January 16, 2018

Dated: December 13, 2017

Respectfully Submitted,

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS  
LEGAL DIVISION**

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Division Director

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**DOCKET NO. 47812**

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that a copy of this document will be served on all parties of record on this the 13<sup>th</sup> of December, 2017 in accordance with 16 TAC § 22.74.



Joshua Adam Barron