

ISSUED: October 10, 2011

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF OREGON**

UM 1017(3)

In the Matter of

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF  
OREGON

Investigation into Expansion of the  
Oregon Universal Service Fund to  
Include the Service Areas of Rural  
Telecommunications Carriers

RULING

DISPOSITION: SCHEDULE SUSPENDED

**Background**

On May 23, 2011, the Oregon Exchange Carrier Association, Inc. (OECA) petitioned the Commission to reopen this docket for the purpose of considering an OECA proposal to increase support levels from the Oregon Universal Service Fund (OUSF) to replace revenues lost through proposed reductions in intrastate access rates. Numerous parties intervened in the proceeding, a prehearing conference was held and a procedural schedule was established.

On August 29, 2011, shortly after a workshop/settlement conference was held, OECA, along with Comcast Business Communications LLC, tw telecom of Oregon llc, TRACER Oregon, and the Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon filed a joint motion to amend the schedule to allow briefing by the parties and a determination by the Commission on the following question:

Does the Commission currently have the legal authority to adopt the OECA's proposed expansion of the Oregon Universal Service Fund?

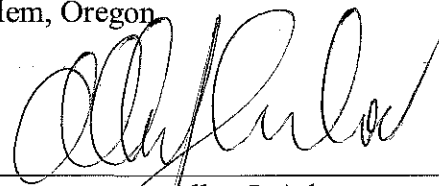
An ALJ Ruling granted the motion and adopted the briefing schedule proposed by the joint parties, and the question was briefed according to the docket schedule.

The Ruling stated that, in the event that the Commission concluded that it had the necessary legal authority, responsive testimony is scheduled to be submitted no later than October 24, 2011.

**Ruling**

In order for the Commission to have sufficient time to address the threshold legal issue, the procedural schedule in this proceeding is suspended, pending a Commission Order.

Dated this 10<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2011 at Salem, Oregon.



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Allan J. Arlow  
Administrative Law Judge