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| PUC logo | COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIAPENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION400 North Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120 | **IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO OUR FILE** |

May 3, 2019

**Docket No:** M-2017-2587711

To: All Parties to M-2017-2587711

Re: Requesting Utility and Stakeholder Participation in the Universal Service Reporting (USR) Working Group

On January 17, 2019, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) entered an Order, releasing a staff report titled “*Home Energy Affordability for Low-Income Customers in Pennsylvania*” (Report). The Report found, *inter alia*, that inconsistencies and limitations in reported data impacted the analysis and evaluation of Customer Assistance Programs (CAPs).

In the January 17 Order, the Commission recognized the need for NGDCs and EDCs to (1) standardize data gathering and reporting; (2) establish standard definitions for terms; (3) track and report data consistently (*e.g.*, income verification/confirmed low income); and (4) track and report additional data elements to enhance the evaluation of CAPs. January 17 Order at 18.

Therefore, the January 17 Order directed staff in the Bureau of Consumer Services (BCS) and the Law Bureau to convene, no later than July 31, 2019, a USR working group to standardize universal service reporting protocols for data definitions, tracking, and reporting. Additionally, the Commission directed all NGDCs and EDCs to participate in the USR working group. January 17 Order at 23.

The USR working group shall conclude its work no later than December 31, 2019 and BCS shall provide a consensus/non-consensus report to the Commission prior to January 31, 2020. January 17 Order at 23.

With this Secretarial Letter, the Commission announces establishment of the USR working group. The Commission invites interested stakeholders to participate. The first meeting of the working group will be held in July 2019, in the Keystone Building, Harrisburg. Utilities and interested stakeholders should email ra-pc-uswg@pa.gov by May 31, 2019 to inform the Commission of your intent to participate.[[1]](#footnote-2) All utility participants and interested stakeholders will be provided with information and comment requests, and notified of specific meeting dates, times, and locations, via email.

Please contact Eric Tuttle at etuttle@pa.gov if you have any questions.

 Sincerely,



 Rosemary Chiavetta

 Secretary

cc: Sarah Dewey, BCS, sdewey@pa.gov

Lori Mohr, BCS, laumohr@pa.gov

 Joseph Magee, BCS, jmagee@pa.gov

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 Cert. of Service via email

1. All utilities should inform the Commission of which staff members will be participating in the working group. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)