

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WYOMING

IN THE MATTER OF THE)
COMMISSION'S CONSIDERATION ON)
ITS OWN MOTION OF A TEMPORARY)
GRANT OF AUTHORITY FOR PUBLIC) DOCKET NO. 90000-151-XO-20
UTILITIES TO SUSPEND CERTAIN) (RECORD NO. 15474)
TARIFFS PERTAINING TO)
DISCONTINUATION OF SERVICE, LATE)
CHARGES AND SIMILAR MATTERS)

**ORDER AUTHORIZING SUSPENSION OF CERTAIN TARIFFS, RULES,
REGULATIONS AND SIMILAR TERMS OF SERVICE**
(Issued March 26, 2020)

This matter came before the Wyoming Public Service Commission (Commission) upon its own motion at its properly noticed Open Meeting on March 24, 2020.

The Commission, having considered potential effects of the public health emergency related to the COVID-19 virus on public utilities¹ and their customers receiving service pursuant to Commission approved tariffs, rules and regulations and other terms of service, applicable Wyoming utility law, and being otherwise advised in the premises, FINDS and CONCLUDES:

1. Wyo. Stat. § 37-2-112 provides the Commission general and exclusive power to regulate and supervise every public utility within the state.
2. The majority of public utilities providing service in Wyoming have recently advised the Commission that they have suspended, or intend to suspend, discontinuation of service, imposition of late charges and similar rules, regulations and terms of service to mitigate the negative effects on customers of the public health emergency related to the COVID-19 virus.
3. Public utilities providing service in Wyoming may suspend the enforcement of approved tariffs, rules, regulations and terms of service governing service discontinuation, imposition of late charges, and similar terms of service as they determine reasonable during the public health emergency related to the COVID-19 virus. In addition, requiring utilities to make applications for authority to suspend or revise such tariff provisions and related proceedings normally required by Wyoming law would delay actions beneficial to customers and public

¹ Telecommunications companies providing non-competitive service pursuant to price schedules, rules, regulations, policies and practices approved by the Commission pursuant to Wyo. Stat. § 37-15-203 and 204 are, for the purpose of this Order only, equivalent to public utilities providing service pursuant to Commission approved tariffs, rules, regulations and terms of service. Such telecommunications companies are included in reference to “public utilities” herein except those to statutes. This Order shall be interpreted and applied in a manner consistent with all provisions of Title 37, Chapter 15 of the Wyoming Statutes.

utilities while diverting valuable resources from more urgent matters. Therefore, such applications and proceedings are not reasonable or necessary under these circumstances.

4. Public utilities that anticipate applying for the authority to recover, through rates, any foregone revenue or extraordinary costs related to actions taken pursuant to this Order shall file an application to establish a deferred accounting order.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. Pursuant to action taken at the Open Meeting on March 24, 2020, all public utilities providing service pursuant to Commission approved tariffs, rules, regulations, and terms of service are authorized to suspend discontinuation of service, imposition of late fees, and similar tariffs, rules, regulations and terms of service for the purpose of mitigating the impact on customers of the public health emergency related to the COVID-19 virus.

2. The Commission authorizes any public utility that has taken steps permitted by this Order prior to its issuance to continue such actions.

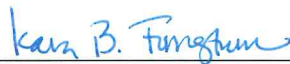
3. Public utilities acting pursuant to this Order shall avoid any undue discrimination in rates or services and shall make reasonable efforts to inform the Commission, and keep records of their actions.

4. This Order does not confer a right to any public utility to recover, through rates, any foregone revenue or extraordinary costs related to actions authorized hereby.

5. This *Order* is effective immediately and until superseded by subsequent order.

MADE and ENTERED at Cheyenne, Wyoming, on March 26, 2020.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WYOMING



KARA B. FORNSTROM, Chairman



MARY A. THRONE, Deputy Chair



MICHAEL M. ROBINSON, Commissioner



Attest:



Christopher Petrie, Secretary