

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE ANNUAL
REPORTS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2019 FOR
THE FISCAL ASSESSMENT OF ALL
REGULATED ENTITIES.

CASE NO. 20-01-AU-RPT

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on June 24, 2020

{¶ 1} Pursuant to R.C. 4905.10, by Entry issued January 29, 2020, the Commission directed all regulated entities to file a 2019 annual report for fiscal assessment through the Commission's web-based filing system known as the PUCO Community by April 30, 2020.

{¶ 2} On March 9, 2020, the governor signed Executive Order 2020-01D (Executive Order), declaring a state of emergency in Ohio to protect the well-being of Ohioans from the dangerous effects of COVID-19. Further, on March 22, 2020, as amended on April 2, 2020, Dr. Amy Acton, Director of the Ohio Department of Health, issued an order (Stay at Home Order) intended to ensure that the maximum number of Ohioans self-isolate in their residences to the maximum extent feasible, while enabling essential services to continue and help slow the spread of COVID-19.

{¶ 3} On April 14, 2020, Conneaut Telephone Company dba GreatWave Communications and GreatWave Broadband Services, LLC (collectively, GreatWave) filed a motion for an extension of time to file their 2019 annual reports. In the motion, GreatWave explains that they will not have their audit completed by April 30, 2020. As such, GreatWave requested an extension to file their individual 2019 annual reports until July 31, 2020.

{¶ 4} In light of the governor's declaration of a state of emergency and the Stay at Home Order, by Entry dated April 22, 2020, the Commission extended the date whereby all regulated entities must file a 2019 annual report for fiscal assessment through the Commission's web-based filing system known as the PUCO Community until June 29, 2020. The Commission also postponed the issuance of the initial assessment invoice from May 15, 2020 to July 15, 2020, and set the due date for that invoice from June 20, 2020 to August 20,

2020. Additionally, a list of all regulated entities who must file a 2019 annual report was filed by Staff on the docket for this proceeding on January 30, 2020.¹ Finally, the Commission noted that it expected timely compliance from all companies and that a civil forfeiture of up to \$10,000 may be assessed, pursuant to R.C. 4905.54, against any company that failed to comply with the revised deadlines, absent good cause shown.

{¶ 5} Upon review of GreatWave's motion for extension, the attorney examiner finds that it should be denied. Through its April 22, 2020 Entry, the Commission has already provided entities an additional 60 days to file annual reports due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Further, the Commission's annual report process has remained similar from year-to-year in that annual reports generally become due during the first half of the year. A review of internal records reveals that GreatWave has filed annual reports with the Commission since at least 2014. As such, GreatWave should have been prepared to timely file their annual reports. In its motion, GreatWave also does not explain why their audit has caused it to deviate from its usual course in being prepared to timely file the annual report with the Commission. Based on these reasons, GreatWave's motion for extension is denied. GreatWave should plan to file their annual reports by the June 29, 2020 filing deadline.

{¶ 6} It is, therefore,

{¶ 7} ORDERED, That GreatWave's motion for extension of time be denied. It is, further,

¹ For further information about annual reports in general, visit:
<https://www.puco.ohio.gov/docketing/annual-reports-for-fiscal-assessment/>.

{¶ 8} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon GreatWave.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

/s/Anna Sanyal

By: Anna Sanyal
Attorney Examiner

NJW/hac

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Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry denying motion for extension of time electronically filed by Heather A Chilcote on behalf of Anna Sanyal, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission