



Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

DA 98-1291

June 30, 1998

Philip R. Aldridge, President  
Columbia Energy Telecommunications Company  
12355 Sunrise Valley Drive  
Suite 300  
Reston, VA 20191-3420

Re: Columbia Energy  
Telecommunications Company  
File No. ETC 98-5

Dear Mr. Aldridge:

On May 29, 1998, Columbia Energy Telecommunications Company filed an application for a determination of exempt telecommunications company status, pursuant to Section 34(a)(1) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 (PUHCA), as added by Section 103 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Columbia Energy Telecommunications Company's application was placed on public notice for comment on the adequacy and accuracy of the representations contained therein on June 3, 1998. *Application of Columbia Energy Telecommunications Company*, Public Notice, DA No. 98-1039 (OGC rel. June 3, 1998). No comments were filed in response to the public notice.

Based on the information set forth in the application, we find that Columbia Energy Telecommunications Company is an exempt telecommunications company, as that term is defined in PUHCA Section 34(a)(1), as amended. As such, the application of Columbia Energy Telecommunications Company for a determination of ETC status is therefore granted. A copy of this letter will be sent to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David H. Solomon".

David H. Solomon  
Deputy General Counsel