

RA 26-119

COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK, IOWA[751]**Regulatory Analysis**

Notice of Intended Action to be published: 751—Chapter 14
“Access to Facilities”

Iowa Code section(s) or chapter(s) authorizing rulemaking: 8D

State or federal law(s) implemented by the rulemaking: 2024 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2370

Public Hearing

A public hearing at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

July 15, 2026
1 to 2 p.m.

ICN Director’s Conference Room
Grimes State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit written or oral comments concerning this Regulatory Analysis, which must be received by the Iowa Communications Network no later than 4:30 p.m. on the date of the public hearing. Comments should be directed to:

Lori Larsen
400 East 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Phone: 515.725.4713
Email: lori.larsen@icn.state.ia.us or lori.larsen@iowa.gov

Purpose and Summary

Pursuant to Executive Order 10, the agency proposes to rescind Chapter 14 and adopt a new chapter in lieu thereof. The chapter describes the access to facilities and guidelines in which the statewide network is administered throughout the State. This proposed rulemaking eliminates language that is overly restrictive or obsolete and shortens the chapter.

Analysis of Impact

1. Persons affected by the proposed rulemaking:

• **Classes of persons that will bear the costs of the proposed rulemaking:**

There is no direct cost associated with the proposed rulemaking.

• **Classes of persons that will benefit from the proposed rulemaking:**

All individuals within the State benefit from a well-run and organized State communications network.

2. Impact of the proposed rulemaking, economic or otherwise, including the nature and amount of all the different kinds of costs that would be incurred:

• **Quantitative description of impact:**

There is no quantitative impact.

• **Qualitative description of impact:**

The qualitative impact is positive; the rulemaking simplifies the regulatory environment by removing obsolete language and providing clearer guidance on the access to facilities.

3. Costs to the State:

- **Implementation and enforcement costs borne by the agency or any other agency:**

There are no costs to the State or the agency associated with this rulemaking.

- **Anticipated effect on State revenues:**

There are no anticipated effects on State revenues.

4. Comparison of the costs and benefits of the proposed rulemaking to the costs and benefits of inaction:

This rulemaking has no costs associated with it and ensures the agency has a basic structure.

5. Determination whether less costly methods or less intrusive methods exist for achieving the purpose of the proposed rulemaking:

The agency seeks to implement these rules in a minimally intrusive and minimally prescriptive manner while still fulfilling the responsibilities of maintaining a well-run State communications network.

6. Alternative methods considered by the agency:

- **Description of any alternative methods that were seriously considered by the agency:**

No other methods were considered because the proposed rulemaking is necessary to comply with the Executive Order 10 mandate to streamline and modernize existing rules.

- **Reasons why alternative methods were rejected in favor of the proposed rulemaking:**

Not applicable.

Small Business Impact

If the rulemaking will have a substantial impact on small business, include a discussion of whether it would be feasible and practicable to do any of the following to reduce the impact of the rulemaking on small business:

- Establish less stringent compliance or reporting requirements in the rulemaking for small business.

- Establish less stringent schedules or deadlines in the rulemaking for compliance or reporting requirements for small business.

- Consolidate or simplify the rulemaking's compliance or reporting requirements for small business.

- Establish performance standards to replace design or operational standards in the rulemaking for small business.

- Exempt small business from any or all requirements of the rulemaking.

If legal and feasible, how does the rulemaking use a method discussed above to reduce the substantial impact on small business?

The rules govern internal facility access and do not impose requirements on small business.

Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Rescind 751—Chapter 14 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 14
ACCESS TO FACILITIES

751—14.1(8D) Purpose and scope. The purpose of this chapter is to protect the integrity, security, and reliability of the network by regulating access to commission-owned or operated facilities, including network hubs, regeneration sites, and equipment rooms.

751—14.2(8D) Authorized access. Access to commission facilities is restricted to:

14.2(1) Commission employees and agents acting within the scope of their employment.

14.2(2) Authorized vendors and contractors who have a valid contract or service agreement with the commission.

14.2(3) Colocation partners as defined in a written colocation agreement.

14.2(4) Emergency response personnel.

751—14.3(8D) Security procedures.

14.3(1) *Credentials.* All individuals entering a commission facility must possess valid identification and commission-issued credentials (key card, key, or access code). Credentials are nontransferable and shall not be shared or loaned.

14.3(2) *Background checks.* The commission reserves the right to require criminal history background checks for any nonemployee requesting access to critical infrastructure.

14.3(3) *Logs.* All entry and exit from commission facilities shall be logged. Use of a monitored electronic access control system satisfies this requirement.

751—14.4(8D) Vendor and colocation access.

14.4(1) *Authorization.* In support of the commission, third-party vendors and colocation partners may be granted access to specific facilities for the installation, maintenance, or removal of their equipment.

14.4(2) *Liability.* Any vendor or colocation partner entering a commission facility assumes full liability for any damage caused to the network, the facility, or the equipment of other tenants by the vendor's or colocation partner's employees or agents.

14.4(3) *Revocation.* The commission may immediately revoke access privileges for any individual who violates security protocols or endangers the network.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 8D.3.