

Annual 47 C.F.R. § 64.2009(e) CPNI Certification

Annual 64.2009(e) CPNI Certification for 2024 covering the prior calendar year 2023

1. Date filed: February 21, 2024
2. Name of entity covered by this certification: Columbia Power and Water Systems
3. Form 499 Filer ID: 828933
4. Name of signatory: Jonathan Hardin
5. Title of signatory: President/CEO
6. Certification:

I, Jonathan Hardin, certify that I am an officer of Columbia Power and Water Systems, (“CPWS”), and, acting as an agent of CPWS, that I have personal knowledge that CPWS has established operating procedures, as summarized in the attached statement, that are adequate to ensure compliance with the customer proprietary network information (“CPNI”) rules as set forth in Part 64, Subpart U of the Commission’s rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 64.2001 *et seq.*

Attached to this certification is an accompanying statement explaining how CPWS’ procedures ensure that it is in compliance with the requirements (including those mandating the adoption of CPNI procedures, training, recordkeeping, and supervisory review) set forth in section 64.2001 *et seq.* of the Commission’s rules.

CPWS has not received any customer complaints in the past calendar year concerning unauthorized release of CPNI. CPWS has not taken any actions in the past year against data brokers, including proceedings instituted or petitions filed by CPWS at either the Tennessee Public Utility Commission, any court, or at the Commission.

I hereby represent and warrant that the above certification is consistent with Section 1.17 of the Commission’s rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.17, which requires truthful and accurate statements to the Commission, and acknowledge that false statements and misrepresentations to the Commission are punishable under Title 18 of the U.S. Code and may subject a filer to enforcement actions.



Jonathan Hardin
President/CEO
Columbia Power & Water Systems
Executed February 9, 2024

CPNI Compliance Policies of Columbia Power and Water Systems

The following summary describes the policies of Columbia Power and Water Systems (“CPWS”) that are designed to protect the confidentiality of Customer Proprietary Network Information (“CPNI”) and to assure compliance with the rules of the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) set forth in 47 C.F.R. Part 64, Subpart U, Section 2001 *et seq.*

CPNI is “(A) information that relates to the quantity, technical configuration, type, destination, location, and amount of use of a telecommunications service subscribed to by any customer of a telecommunications carrier, and that is made available to the carrier by the customer solely by virtue of the carrier-customer relationship; and (B) information contained in the bills pertaining to telephone exchange service or telephone toll service received by a customer of a carrier.”

These policies are managed by CPWS’ CPNI Compliance Manager, Richard Kelley, Executive Vice President.

I. USE, DISCLOSURE OF, AND ACCESS TO CPNI

CPWS will use, disclose, or permit access to individually identifiable CPNI only in its provision of the communications service from which such information is derived; for services necessary to, or used in, the provision of such communications service, including the publishing of directories; to initiate, render, bill and collect for communications services; to protect the rights or property of CPWS, or to protect users or other carriers or service providers from fraudulent, abusive or unlawful use of, or subscription to, such services; to provide inside wiring installation, maintenance, or repair services; as required by law; or as expressly authorized by the customer.

CPWS does not use CPNI to market service offerings among the different categories of service, or even within the same category of service, that it provides to subscribers. Although current CPWS policy is not to use CPNI for marketing, in the event that any employee or agent wishes to use CPNI for marketing or to seek customer approval for such use, such proposed use is subject to a supervisory review process that shall involve a supervisor designated by the senior employee responsible for marketing and the CPNI Compliance Manager. If such use is approved, CPWS shall modify these policies and conduct additional training as needed to assure compliance with the FCC’s rules.

CPWS does not use, disclose or permit access to CPNI to identify or track customers that call competing service providers.

When CPWS receives or obtains proprietary information from another carrier for purposes of providing a telecommunications service, it shall use such information only for such purpose, and shall not use such information for its own marketing efforts.

II. SAFEGUARDS AGAINST DISCLOSURE OF CPNI TO UNAUTHORIZED PARTIES

Above and beyond the specific FCC requirements, CPWS will take reasonable measures to discover and protect against attempts to gain unauthorized access to CPNI. If any employee becomes aware of new methods that are being used or could be used by third parties to attempt to obtain unauthorized access to CPNI, or of possible changes to CPWS' existing policies that would strengthen protection of CPNI, they should report such information immediately to CPWS' CPNI Compliance Manager so that CPWS may evaluate whether existing policies should be supplemented or changed.

A. Online Accounts

To access an on-line account from which a customer can access their CPNI, customer must enter a password that is established in accordance with the requirements herein.

Customers may request an initial password, which Company sends to their email or other address of record. The initial password is generated randomly, so is not expected to include any material portion of the customer's account number, telephone number, street address, zip code, social security number, date of birth, or other biographical or account information. After logging in with their initial password, the customer is required to change their password.

If a user attempts to access an online account and does not remember their password, they can request to have a temporary password sent to their email address of record, which they can use once to login at which time they must create a new password. If they do not have an email address of record or no longer have access to that email account, they may call CPWS and request that their password be mailed to their address of record, or obtain a new password at a CPWS office upon presentation of a valid, non-expired government-issued photo ID (such as a driver's license, passport, or comparable ID) matching the customer's account information. CPWS will not provide passwords over the phone or reset a password at the request of a caller.

B. Inbound Calls to CPWS Requesting CPNI

CSRs may not disclose any CPNI to an inbound caller until the caller's identity has been authenticated.

More stringent protections apply to Call Detail Information (CDI), which includes any information that pertains to the transmission of specific telephone calls, including, for outbound calls, the number called, and the time, location, or duration of any call and, for inbound calls, the number from which the call was placed, and the time, location, or duration of any call. Even after a caller has been authenticated under the process above, a CSR will not reveal Call Detail Information (CDI) to an inbound caller.

Instead, if an inbound caller requests CDI, the CSR will first encourage them to obtain the information from their online account. If the caller is unable or not interested to obtain the information from their online account, the CSR shall forward the request to the CPNI Compliance Manager. CPWS' ordinary policy is to provide the requested CDI by sending the information by mail to a mailing address of record for the account, but only if such address has

been on file with CPWS for at least 30 days. In the event that a customer has changed their address within the prior 30 days, or for appropriate circumstances, CPWS may discuss CDI with a customer on the phone, but only in a call initiated by CPWS and placed to the customer's telephone number of record.

C. In-Person Disclosure of CPNI at CPWS Offices

CPWS may disclose a customer's CPNI to an authorized person visiting a CPWS office upon verifying that person's identity through a valid, non-expired government-issued photo ID (such as a driver's license, passport, or comparable ID) matching the customer's account information.

D. Notice of Account Changes

Whenever a password or online account is created or changed, CPWS will provide a notice to a customer address of record. Whenever a postal or e-mail address of record is created or changed, CPWS will send a notice to customer's prior address of record notifying them of the change.

The foregoing notifications are not required when the customer initiates service, including the selection of an email address or creation of an online account at service initiation. Each of the notices provided under this paragraph will not reveal the changed information and will direct the customer to notify CPWS if they did not authorize the change.

III. REPORTING CPNI BREACHES TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

Any CPWS employee that becomes aware of any breaches, suspected breaches or attempted breaches must report such information immediately to CPWS CPNI Compliance Manager. Such information must not be reported or disclosed by any employee to any non-employee, including the potentially affected customer, except in express conformance with the procedures described below. Any employee that fails to report such information will be subject to disciplinary action that may include termination.

It is CPWS' policy that employees should not be discouraged from reporting information about breaches that may have been caused in part by their own actions or omissions. Once a breach has occurred, the most important objective is to attempt to limit the damage to our customers, make any adjustments as needed to prevent a recurrence of the breach, and to alert law enforcement promptly. Therefore, although employees who violate CPWS' CPNI compliance procedures are subject to discipline, the sanctions may be substantially reduced where employees promptly self-report violations if appropriate.

A. Identifying a "Breach"

A "breach" has occurred when a person, without authorization or exceeding authorization, has intentionally gained access to, used, or disclosed CPNI. If an employee has information about an incident and is not certain that the incident would not constitute a breach under this definition, the incident must be reported to the CPNI Compliance Manager.

If a CPWS employee determines that an unauthorized person is attempting to gain access to CPNI but does not succeed at doing so, no breach has occurred. However, the incident must be

reported to CPWS' CPNI Compliance Manager who will determine whether to report the incident to law enforcement and/or take other appropriate action. CPWS' CPNI Compliance Manager will determine whether it is appropriate to update CPWS' CPNI policies or training materials in light of any new information; the FCC's rules require CPWS on an ongoing basis to "take reasonable measures to discover and protect against activity that is indicative of pretexting."

B. Notification Procedures

As soon as practicable, and in no event later than seven (7) business days upon learning of a breach, CPWS CPNI Compliance Manager shall electronically notify the United States Secret Service (USSS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) by accessing the following link: <https://www.cpnireporting.gov>. CPWS' FRN number and password may be required to submit a report. If this link is not responsive, they should contact counsel or the FCC's Enforcement Bureau (202-418-7450) for instructions.

CPWS will not notify customers or disclose a breach to the public until 7 full business days have passed after notification to the USSS and the FBI except as provided below. (A full business day does not count a business day on which the notice was provided.) Federal law requires compliance with this requirement even if state law requires disclosure.

If CPWS receives no response from law enforcement after the 7th full business day, it must promptly proceed to inform the customers whose CPNI was disclosed of the breach.

CPWS will delay notification to customers or the public upon request of the FBI or USSS. If CPWS Compliance Manager believes there is a need to disclose a breach sooner, he or she should so indicate in the notification to law enforcement. However, such notification does not itself permit notice to customers; CPWS still may not notify customers sooner unless given clearance to do so from *both* the USSS and the FBI.

IV. RECORD RETENTION

CPWS Compliance Manager is responsible for assuring that we maintain for at least two years a record, electronically or in some other manner, of any breaches discovered, notifications made to the USSS and the FBI pursuant to these procedures, and notifications of breaches made to customers. The record must include, if available, dates of discovery and notification, a detailed description of the CPNI that was the subject of the breach, and the circumstances of the breach.

CPWS maintains a record, for a period of at least one year, of those limited circumstances in which CPNI is disclosed or provided to third parties or where third parties were allowed access to CPNI. If CPWS later changes its policies to permit the use of CPNI for marketing, it will revise its recordkeeping policies to comply with the Commission's recordkeeping requirements.

CPWS maintains a record of all customer complaints related to their handling of CPNI, and records of CPWS' handling of such complaints, for at least two years. The CPNI Compliance Manager will assure that all complaints are reviewed and that CPWS considers any necessary changes to its policies or practices to address the concerns raised by such complaints.

CPWS will have an authorized officer, as an agent of CPWS, sign a compliance certificate on an annual basis stating that the officer has personal knowledge that CPWS has established operating procedures that are adequate to ensure its compliance with FCC's CPNI rules. The certificate for each year will be filed with the FCC Enforcement Bureau in EB Docket No. 06-36 by the first business day or on after March 1 of the subsequent year, and will be accompanied by a summary or copy of this policy that explains how CPWS' operating procedures ensure that it is in compliance with the FCC's CPNI rules. In addition, the filing must include an explanation of any actions taken against data brokers and a summary of all customer complaints received in the past year concerning the unauthorized release of CPNI. Confidential portions of these submissions shall be redacted from the public version of the filing and provided only to the FCC.

V. TRAINING

All employees with access to CPNI receive a copy of CPWS' CPNI policies and are informed that (i) any use or disclosure of CPNI or other act or omission not in compliance with such policies will result in disciplinary action, including the termination of employment where appropriate, and (ii) employees who knowingly facilitate the unauthorized disclosure of a customer's confidential information may be subject to criminal penalties. In addition, CPWS requires CPNI training for all CSRs, personnel at retail offices that may receive requests for CPNI, and marketing personnel. The CSR training emphasizes, among other points, that CSRs be cognizant that some unauthorized persons may have significant apparent familiarity with a customer's biographical and account information.

Submit a Standard Filing

Proceeding(s): 06-36
Confirmation #: 20240221487818652
Submitted: Feb 21, 2024 12:38:21 PM
Status: RECEIVED
Name(s) of Filer(s) Columbia Power and Water Systems
Law Firm(s)
Attorney/Author/Submitter Name(s) Jonathan Hardin
Primary Contact Email
Type of Filing STATEMENT
File Number
Report Number
Bureau ID Number
Address of Filer
Address 201 Pickens Lane, Columbia, TN, 38401
Email Confirmation No

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