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Attorney for the Commission Staff

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF COLUMBINE)
TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.'S PETITION) **CASE NO. COL-T-13-01**
TO AMEND ITS CERTIFICATED SERVICE)
AREA BOUNDARY.) **COMMENTS OF THE**
) **COMMISSION STAFF**
)

BACKGROUND

On February 8, 2013, Columbine Telephone Company, Inc. ("Columbine" or "Company") petitioned the Commission for an Order amending the service area boundary described in the Company's Certificate No. 329, Order No. 27166 issued on December 16, 1997 (Case No. COL-T-97-1). *See* Petition for Amendment of Certificated Service Area Boundary ("Petition"). Columbine's internal review and audit discovered that the description of the exchange boundaries in Certificate 329 conflicts with the actual exchange areas served by the Company and requests that the Commission grant an amendment to the Certificate that incorporates the boundary correction adjustments reflected in the Petition. *Id.* at 2.

STAFF REVIEW

Columbine is a Title 61 regulated telephone corporation organized under Wyoming law, with its principal place of business in Freedom, Wyoming. It is authorized to do business in Idaho, and maintains central offices in Driggs, Victor, and Tetonia, Idaho. The Company provides basic local exchange telecommunications services, mobile telephone services, transport

services to interexchange carriers, special access services, broadband, and other telecommunications services that customers may require. *Id.* at 1.

The Commission issued Certificate No. 329 to the Company in 1997 as a result of the Commission-approved purchase and transfer of Qwest exchanges. *See* Order Nos. 26353 and 27166. *Id.* at 2. The Company says it has served the areas within the corrected boundaries since 1997, and that it remains willing to serve, and is best able to serve the customers within the corrected boundaries. *Id.*


The Company says the requested Certificate amendment will not affect any other certificated telephone carrier's service area boundary and that the corrected boundaries are not near and will not interfere with any other utility's existing lines, plants, or systems. *Id.*

The Company's Petition attaches copies of the Company's Certificate (Exhibit A), illustrations depicting the Company's actual service area (Exhibit B), and a legal description for each service area that the Company proposes to amend (Exhibits C, D, and E).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff has reviewed the Application and verified that the boundary of Columbine Telephone Company's new service area does not overlap onto the service areas of any Title 61 or certified telephone carrier. The new service area boundary includes unserved territory and Staff believes it is in the public interest to allow the Company to continue to serve the current and future customers in the service area. Staff, therefore, recommends that the Commission grant the Petition.

Respectfully submitted this 3rd day of July 2013.



Karl Klein
Deputy Attorney General

Technical Staff: Grace Seaman

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