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Attorney for the Commission Staff

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF)	
CUSTER TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.)	CASE NO. CUS-T-19-02
FOR AMENDMENT OF ITS CERTIFICATED)	
SERVICE AREA BOUNDARY)	
)	COMMENTS OF THE
)	COMMISSION STAFF
)	

COMES NOW the Staff of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, by and through its attorney of record, Matt Hunter, Deputy Attorney General, and in response to the Notice of Petition and Notice of Modified Procedure issued in Order No. 34438 on September 13, 2019, in Case No. CUS-T-19-02, submits the following comments.

BACKGROUND

On August 27, 2019, Custer Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("Custer" or "Company") petitioned the Commission for an Order amending the service area boundary described in the Company's Certificate No. 308. *See* Petition at 1; Order Nos. 30290 and 30291. Custer recently discovered that certain areas historically served by the Company are not within the certificated service area stated in the First Amended Certificate No. 308. Petition at 2.

Custer has filed revised service area boundary illustrations and descriptions with its petition. Petition, Appendices A-D.

STAFF REVIEW

Custer is an Idaho mutual non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Idaho, with its principal place of business in Challis, Idaho. It is authorized to do business in Idaho. The Company provides basic local exchange telecommunications services, MTS, WATS, access services to inter-exchange carriers, special access services, broadband and other telecommunications services that its customer may request or require from time to time. *Id* at 1.

The Company says it has historically always served the area within the corrected boundaries, and it is willing to continue to serve, and is best able to serve, the customers in the corrected boundaries. *Id* at 2.


The Company says the requested Certificate amendment will not affect the service area boundary of any other certificated telecommunications carrier and will not injure or interfere with the operation of any line, plant, or system of any other public utility already constructed. *Id*.

The Company's Petition includes the Company's Certificate as amended to date, illustrations depicting the Company's actual service area, and a legal description for each service area that the Company proposes to amend. *Id*, Appendices A-D.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff has reviewed the Application and verified that the boundary of the Company's new service area does not overlap onto the service area 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 approve the Petition.

Respectfully submitted this 2nd day of October 2019.

For 
Matt Hunter
Deputy Attorney General

Technical Staff: Daniel Klein


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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I HAVE THIS 2nd DAY OF OCTOBER 2019, SERVED THE FOREGOING **COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION STAFF**, IN CASE NO. CUS-T-19-02, BY MAILING A COPY THEREOF, POSTAGE PREPAID, TO THE FOLLOWING:

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