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IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

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Attorney for the Commission Staff

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)	
FRETEL COMMUNICATIONS, LLC FOR A)	CASE NO. FRC-T-99-1
CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE)	
AND NECESSITY TO PROVIDE LOCAL)	COMMENTS OF THE
EXCHANGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS)	COMMISSION STAFF
SERVICES.)	
)	
)	

COMES NOW the Staff of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, by and through its Attorney of record, Weldon B. Stutzman, Deputy Attorney General, in response to Order No. 28224, the Notice of Application and Notice of Modified Procedure in Case No. FRC-T-99-1 issued on November 30, 1999, submits the following comments.

On September 23, 1999, the Commission received an Application from Fretel Communications LLC for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to provide local exchange service and other telecommunications services to customers in U S WEST's southern Idaho study area.

Fretel is a limited liability company that was initially organized on December 18, 1998, to provide message telecommunications service and competitive local exchange service within the state of Idaho. Its principal business office is located in St. Anthony, Idaho. Its price list for Title 62 services was filed with an effective date of April 1, 1999.


According to its application, Fretel's members have extensive experience in constructing and operating local telephone exchanges in Idaho and other states. The company intends to provide the most technically modern communications services available, including basic local exchange service, extended area service to U S WEST's EAS calling areas, touch-tone service, high-speed data services, access to toll areas and emergency services, and Lifeline and Link-up services for low-income residents. The company will construct telephone plant that will include copper cable, fiber optic cable transport facilities, next-generation loop carrier and digital switches within the U S WEST South serving area.

Staff has reviewed Fretel's application and Fretel has made all of the modifications suggested by Staff to bring its application into compliance. Fretel has agreed to post a \$10,000 bond to cover customer deposits.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that this Application be approved contingent upon Fretel's submittal of a \$10,000 bond.

Dated at Boise, Idaho, this 3rd day of January 2000.



Weldon B. Stutzman
Deputy Attorney General

Technical Staff: Birdelle Brown

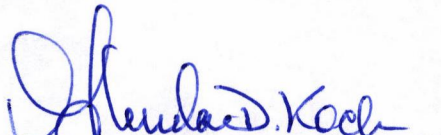
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I HAVE THIS 3RD DAY OF JANUARY 2000,
SERVED THE FOREGOING **COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION STAFF**, IN CASE
NO. FRC-T-99-1, BY MAILING A COPY THEREOF, POSTAGE PREPAID, TO THE
FOLLOWING:

JAMES BAUCHMAN
FRETEL COMMUNICATIONS LLC
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SECRETARY