

MEMORANDUM

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IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

TO: FILE

FROM: KIRA DALE PFISTERER

DATE: MARCH 7, 2005

**RE: EAS REQUEST BETWEEN JULIAETTA/KENDRICK AND LEWISTON,
LAPWAI, LENORE, AND CLARKSTON, WA. CASE NO. GNR-T-00-5.**

On November 15, 1999, the Commission received a Petition for Extended Area Service (EAS) requesting toll free local telephone service between the Juliaetta/Kendrick area and Lewiston, Lapwai and Lenore, Idaho and Clarkston, Washington. On December 14, 1999, the Commission decided to open a case to consider the intrastate routes included in the Petition.

THE PETITION

Twenty-nine individuals signed the 1999 Petition. Twenty-one of the petitioners are customers of Potlatch Telephone Company, doing business as TDS Telecom ("TDS"), and eight are customers of Inland Telephone Company ("Inland"). Thirteen of the petitioners are from Juliaetta, eight are from Kendrick, and eight are from Lenore. Each of the petitioners' telephone numbers has a prefix from either the Juliaetta or Kendrick exchange.

STAFF REVIEW

In late 2004, Staff reviewed the Petition in light of the standards set forth in Order No. 26311 and *Idaho Code* § 61-612. In addition, Staff contacted TDS for facilities and cost information. In early 2005, TDS identified major costs associated with developing the facilities necessary to implement the EAS. Moreover, TDS informed Staff that beginning in April 2005, it plans to offer its Idaho residential customers unlimited long distance calling for \$34.90 per month. The plan would cover both intrastate and interstate calling.

With this information, Staff contacted the lead petitioner on the EAS request, Don Kerby. Mr. Kerby agreed that the TDS proposal would be more beneficial than the proposed EAS. Mr. Kerby then contacted the others named on the Petition. Ultimately, via the attached e-mail, Mr. Kerby, on behalf of all petitioners, voluntarily withdrew the EAS request. Consequently, this file should be closed.

Kira Pfisterer

From: Carolee Hall
Sent: Thursday, March 03, 2005 6:55 AM
To: Kira Pfisterer; Don Howell; Joe Cusick; Weldon Stutzman
Cc: 'Gail.Long@TDSTELECOM.COM'
Subject: FW: TDS Petition

Importance: High

Hi All,

Below is our request to withdraw the TDS EAS petition. Please note that they are very interested in the unlimited long distance plan being rolled out - so hopefully we can get that going as quickly as possible. Good work all and thanks so much for all your input!

Carolee

-----Original Message-----

From: Don Kerby [mailto:dkerby@westernapp.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2005 2:39 PM
To: Carolee Hall
Subject: TDS Petition

Carolee,

After our conversation 2 weeks ago, I talked to several of the signers on the petition. The all had been wondering what had happened with it. At any rate, they were all enthused to hear that unlimited long distance at a reasonable rate was a possibility. So, on that basis, we will withdraw our petition.

I do not know if you can use this as leverage in any way, but if you can, do something to "encourage" TDS to do something ASAP. I have told these people what you told me -- that effective 4-1-2005 they would be offered Unlimited Long Distance for \$34.40 per month.

Please feel free to call (work 208.746.9891) if you have questions.

Don Kerby
19315 Kerby Lane
Lenore ID 83501