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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)	
WESTCOM, LLC FOR A CERTIFICATE OF)	CASE NO. GNR-T-02-6
PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO)	
PROVIDE LOCAL EXCHANGE)	COMMENTS OF THE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES)	COMMISSION STAFF
)	

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. 29032, the Notice of Application and Notice of Modified Procedure in Case No. GNR-T-02-6 issued on May 21, 2002, submits the following comments.

BACKGROUND

In compliance with Commission Rules of Procedures, WestCom, LLC ("WestCom" or "Company") filed an Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity on March 29, 2002 to provide basic local exchange services in Idaho. The Company anticipates offering facilities-based local exchange services, intra-exchange private lines, frame relay service, and ISDN services to subdivision residents over a fiber optic network. WestCom's Application states that it intends to offer these services throughout Qwest's southern Idaho territory

WestCom is organized in the State of Idaho and obtained a Certificate of Authority from Idaho's Secretary of State on January 30, 2001. WestCom does maintain an office in Idaho and does have a registered agent in the state.

DISCUSSION

Staff has reviewed the Application submitted by WestCom and believes the Company understands and agrees to comply with the Commission's Rules and requirements. Staff has also reviewed the financials submitted by WestCom and points out that, while the Company is in its start-up phase, it has demonstrated positive net income in 2001 and thus far in 2002. In addition, the Company states that it has established an escrow account with a local bank in the event that customer deposits are required.

The Company intends to operate in the southern Idaho service territory of Qwest and has referenced that map. WestCom has not yet obtained an interconnection agreement in Idaho.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Based on Staff's review of WestCom, LLC's Application, Staff believes the Company's filing satisfies all the requirements of the Commission's Rules and Procedural Order No. 26665. Staff also believes that the public interest would be served by the issuance of this Certificate, first, by maintaining and enhancing competition in the local exchange market place in Idaho, and second, by increasing customer choice.

Staff recommends approval of the Application for Certificate of Public Convenience.

Respectfully submitted this 3rd day of June 2002.



Weldon B. Stutzman
Deputy Attorney General

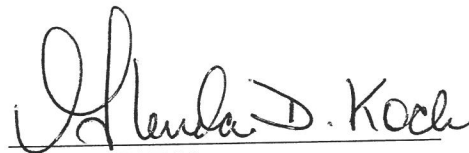
Technical Staff: Doug Cooley

WS:DC:u:umisc/comments/gnrt02.6wsdc

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I HAVE THIS 3RD DAY OF JUNE 2002, SERVED THE FOREGOING **COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION STAFF**, IN CASE NO. GNR-T-02-6, BY MAILING A COPY THEREOF, POSTAGE PREPAID, TO THE FOLLOWING:

MOLLY O'LEARY
RICHARDSON & O'LEARY PLLC
PO BOX 1849
EAGLE ID 83616


SECRETARY

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE