

JOHN R. HAMMOND
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
PO BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0074
(208) 334-0357
IDAHO BAR NO. 5470

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Street Address for Express Mail:
472 W WASHINGTON
BOISE ID 83702-5983

Attorney for the Commission Staff

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
HIGH TECH TELEPHONES, INC. FOR A) **CASE NO. GNR-T-03-1**
CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE)
AND NECESSITY TO PROVIDE LOCAL)
EXCHANGE SERVICES IN IDAHO.) **COMMENTS OF THE**
) **COMMISSION STAFF**

COMES NOW the Staff of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, by and through its Attorney of record, John R. Hammond, Deputy Attorney General, in response to Order No. 29283, the Notice of Application and Notice of Modified Procedure in Case No. GNR-T-03-1 issued on July 8, 2003, submits the following comments on High Tech Telephones Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN).

BACKGROUND

On January 8, 2003 High Tech Telephones (High Tech; Company) filed an Application for a CPCN in order to provide basic local exchange services in Idaho. The Company states that it is a non facilities-based reseller of local exchange services, inter-exchange private lines, access to long distance services and custom calling features. The Company also states that it intends to be facilities based provider as well. High Tech intends to initially provide service in Qwest Corporation's southern Idaho exchanges of Boise, Nampa, Meridian and Caldwell. Currently,

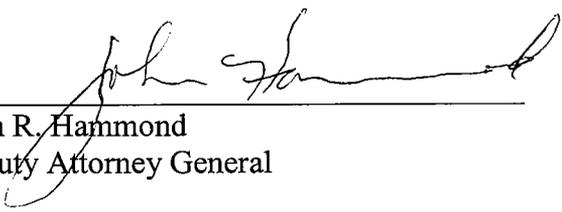
the Company does not have any interconnection agreements with other carriers but intends to begin negotiating one as soon as it can obtain its CPCN. High Tech is organized and incorporated in the State of Idaho and obtained a Certificate of Authority from Idaho's Secretary of State on December 24, 2002. The Company maintains an office in Boise, Idaho.

STAFF REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION

Staff has reviewed the Application submitted by High Tech and believes that it provides sufficient grounds upon which the Commission could grant the Company a CPCN. Staff also believes the Company understands and will comply with the Commission's Rules and requirements. In addition, Staff has reviewed the Company's financials and believes that although the Company has a relatively small budget, it has demonstrated positive net income in 2002. In addition, the Company states that it will establish an escrow account with a local bank in the event that customer deposits are required.

Based on Staff's review of High Tech'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. Accordingly, Staff recommends approval of the Application for Certificate of Public Convenience.

Respectfully submitted this *29th* day of July 2003.



John R. Hammond
Deputy Attorney General

Technical Staff: Doug Cooley

JH:DC:i:umisc/comments/gnrt03.1jhd

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I HAVE THIS 29TH DAY OF JULY 2003,
SERVED THE FOREGOING **COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION STAFF**, IN
CASE NO. GNR-T-03-1, BY MAILING A COPY THEREOF, POSTAGE PREPAID, TO
THE FOLLOWING:

DENIS LAMAR
PRESIDENT
HIGH TECH TELEPHONES INC
10350 W RHETT
BOISE ID 83709


SECRETARY