

DECISION MEMORANDUM

TO: COMMISSIONER KEMPTON
COMMISSIONER SMITH
COMMISSIONER REDFORD
COMMISSION SECRETARY
LEGAL
WORKING FILE

FROM: GRACE SEAMAN

DATE: AUGUST 7, 2009

RE: CLEAR TALK'S WITHDRAWAL OF ETC DESIGNATION;
CASE NO. GNR-T-03-08.

On July 20, 2009, the Commission received a letter from NTCH Idaho, dba Cleartalk (Cleartalk). The letter advises the Commission that Cleartalk will be merging with Syringa Wireless (Syringa) effective July 27, 2009. As a result of this merger, Cleartalk requests that the Commission withdraw Cleartalk's ETC designation in the current service area.

On July 23, 2009, the Commission received a related letter from Syringa Wireless advising the Commission that Syringa Wireless and Cleartalk customers will be merging. Syringa's letter states it will continue to offer, "Cleartalk [Idaho Telecommunications Service Assistance Program] recipients their credits for monthly service."

STAFF ANALYSIS

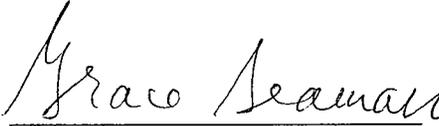
On June 11, 2003, Cleartalk was granted ETC status in 17 non-rural wire centers in southeastern Idaho. *See* Order No. 29261. On August 28, 2008, Syringa was granted ETC status in southern Idaho that included the same 17 non-rural wire centers. *See* Order No. 30629.

After reviewing both Cleartalk and Syringa's letters, Staff contacted Syringa regarding the Company's ETC requirements pertaining to the merger. Syringa agreed to submit an explanation in its ETC annual report to the Commission (due September 1, 2009) that confirms Syringa will comply with all of the original ETC requirements as it relates to the Cleartalk customers. Staff believes Cleartalk's customers, including the Idaho Telecommunications Service Assistance Program (ITSAP) recipients, will see no change as a result of the ETC

withdrawal. Staff, therefore, recommends that the Commission approve Cleartalk's request to withdraw its ETC designation as approved in Order No. 29261.

COMMISSION DECISION

Does the Commission agree?


Grace Seaman
Grace Seaman

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