

October 12, 2004

Jean D. Jewell
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
472 West Washington Street
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Boise, ID 83720-0074

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IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Re: Docket #GNR-T-04-02

Dear Ms. Jewell:

Please accept this letter as our petition for reconsideration on the Order granting Qwest's Motion to Dismiss the Citizens of Soldiers Meadow Area.

We feel the decision is "unreasonable, unlawful and erroneous." We rely on Idaho Code 62-610A through F. We ask the Idaho Public Utilities Commission to look to Idaho law to grant us relief. In all of the discussions with the PUC, not once was this code or this fund mentioned. What is the duty of the PUC? The citizens of Idaho have the right to receive what they are legally entitled to receive.

We also look to the FCC Universal Service Fund for relief. Enclosed is a fact sheet on this issue and we ask you to look at the second component of the fund. It is the duty of the PUC to assist Idaho citizens who request telephones. We seek your support under this program to work with Qwest to extend service.

We request consideration to be included in a geographic support area or service area. We have petitioned for telephone service and realize Idaho law does provide for us. We are asking the PUC to accept the responsibility of their position and work with us to establish service to Soldiers Meadow.

We are discussing our position with Representative Mike Naccarato who was in attendance at the conference call. As you are aware, the residents of Soldiers Meadow do not have the financial assets to retain an attorney. However, we will not be dismissed easily or quietly. We are Idaho citizens requesting telephones through the PUC, and would like to have this issue resolved truthfully, legally, morally and for the benefit of all.

Sincerely,

Vivian Maras

Vivian & Vlado Maras
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**Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau**

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FCC site map

Universal Service Fund Increases: What Every Consumer Should Know

FCC Consumer Facts

Background

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Congress recognize that telephone service provides a vital link to emergency services, government services, and surrounding communities. To help promote telecommunications service nationwide, the FCC, as directed by Congress, developed the Federal Universal Service Fund.

There are four components to the Federal Universal Service Fund. They are:

- **Low-Income.** This program provides telephone service discounts to consumers with qualifying low-incomes.
- **High-Cost.** This program provides financial support to companies that provide telecommunications services in areas of America where the cost of providing service is high.
- **Schools and Libraries.** This program helps to ensure that the nation's classrooms and libraries receive access to the vast array of educational resources that are accessible through the telecommunications network.
- **Rural Health Care.** This program helps to link health care providers located in rural areas to urban medical centers so that patients living in rural America will have access to the same advanced diagnostic and other medical services that are enjoyed in urban communities.

Who Is Required to Contribute to the Universal Service Fund?

In the past, only long distance companies paid fees to support the Federal Universal Service Fund. In 1996, Congress passed a law that expanded the types of companies contributing to the Universal Service Fund.

Currently, all telecommunications companies that provide service between states, including long distance companies, local telephone companies, wireless telephone companies, paging companies, and payphone providers, are required to contribute to the Federal Universal Service Fund. Carriers providing international services also must contribute to the Fund.

How Is the Amount a Company Pays to the Universal Service Fund Determined?

Telecommunications companies must pay a specific percentage of their interstate and international revenues into the Universal Service Fund. This percentage is called the Contribution Factor. The current Contribution Factor is listed at www.fcc.gov/wcb/universal_service/quarter.html.

The Contribution Factor changes each quarter of the year, depending on the needs of the Universal Service Fund and the consumers it is designed to help. Because the Contribution Factor will increase or decrease, depending upon the projected needs of the Universal Service Fund, the amount owed to the Fund by each affected telecommunications company will also increase or decrease accordingly. Different events, such as changes in demand for support or FCC regulatory action, may result in changes in the Contribution Factor. For example, increased demand for a particular Universal Service program may result in an increase to the Contribution Factor, but such increase might be offset by decreased demand for a different program or a decision to credit back to carriers any unused balances that remain in the Fund.

Does the FCC Require That Phone Companies Recover Their Universal Service Contributions From Their Customers?

The FCC does not require companies to recover their contributions directly from their customers. Each company makes a business decision about whether and how to assess customers to recover Universal Service costs.

Although it is not mandatory that companies charge a Universal Service fee to help recover their contributions to the fund, most do. Companies that choose to collect Universal Service fees from their customers cannot collect an amount that exceeds their contribution to the Universal Service Fund.

Be a smart consumer. Shop around and ask about each telecommunications company's Universal Service charge. Compare the charges and choose a carrier based on your needs.

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To receive information on this and other FCC consumer topics through the Commission's electronic subscriber service, click on www.fcc.gov/cgb/emailservice.html.

This document is for consumer education purposes only and is not intended to affect any proceeding or cases involving this subject matter or related issues.



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