

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

EXTENSION AND AMENDMENT OF THE)	
CONTRACT BETWEEN HAMILTON)	CASE NO. GNR-T-09-04
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND THE)	
IDAHO TELECOMMUNICATIONS RELAY)	ORDER NO. 30840
SERVICE)	

In Order No. 29915 issued November 22, 2005, the Commission approved a contract (the "TRS Contract") entered into by the Idaho Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) Administrator and Hamilton Telephone Company dba Hamilton Telecommunications. Under the terms of the contract, Hamilton provides the telecommunication relay services for Idaho citizens who are hearing- or speech-impaired. The relay center converts or "relays" oral conversations to text-type and vice versa. The relay center also provides speech-to-speech, Spanish-to-Spanish, video, and Internet relay services. The TRS Contract is currently in its first one-year extension which will expire on November 30, 2009.

On May 14, 2009, the TRS Administrator reported that he and Hamilton reached agreement to extend the TRS Contract for an additional one-year term which will expire on November 30, 2010. During the final one-year extension, the Administrator and Hamilton also agreed to amend the rates for relay service provided by Hamilton. The TRS Contract provides that the existing rate for traditional relay service is \$1.31 per conversation minute (actual conversation time), and \$1.50 per session minute (conversation time plus set-up and wrap-up time) for captioned telephone (CapTel) service.¹ For the final one-year extension (December 1, 2009 through November 30, 2010) the rates were proposed to be \$1.50 per conversation minute for the traditional relay service, and \$1.58 per session minute for CapTel service. All other terms and conditions remain the same as set forth in the initial TRS Contract.

ADMINISTRATOR'S RECOMMENDATION

The Administrator, Mr. Dunbar, reported that new negotiated rates for the final one-year extension of the TRS Contract are fair, just and reasonable. He recommended that the

¹ CapTel allows hearing-impaired users to hear the conversation as well as read the words on the CapTel phone's built-in screen. The Hamilton relay operator "revoices" the conversation from a caller into the voice-recognition technology that converts the words into a text message and provides the CapTel user with a more natural conversation.

Commission approve the proposed rate increases and the extension of the TRS Contract from December 1, 2009 through November 30, 2010. Mr. Dunbar also reported that the TRS cash reserves are more than adequate to accommodate the increases in the TRS rates. Consequently, he recommended no changes to the current TRS assessments. The current assessment rates are \$0.02 per access line per month, and \$0.002 per intrastate long-distance (MTS/WATS) minute. The Commission Staff endorsed Mr. Dunbar's recommendations. Staff noted that the traditional relay rate has remained unchanged since 2001 and that the CapTel service rate has remained unchanged since its introduction in June 2006.

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

Based upon the recommendations of the Administrator and Staff, we find that it is appropriate and in the public interest to extend the TRS Contract for one additional year (December 1, 2009 through November 30, 2010). The Commission further finds that it is reasonable to increase the existing TRS rates for the final one-year extension. More specifically, it is just and reasonable to increase the TRS rates to \$1.50 per conversation minute for the traditional relay service, and \$1.58 per session minute for CapTel service. Despite these modest increases in the rates for relay services, we adopt Mr. Dunbar's recommendation that there be no changes to the current TRS assessments. Based upon Mr. Dunbar's recommendation, we further find that the existing TRS cash reserves will be more than adequate to accommodate the approved rate increases for the final year's extension of the TRS Contract.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the TRS Contract between Hamilton Telephone Company dba Hamilton Telecommunications and the TRS Administrator be extended for an additional one-year term. The final one-year extension will begin on December 1, 2009 and expire on November 30, 2010.

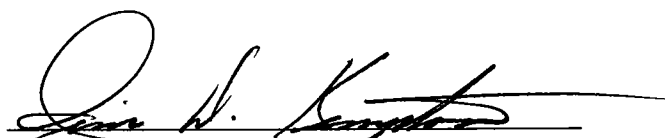
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the rate for traditional relay service be set at \$1.50 per conversation minute, and the rate for CapTel service be set at \$1.58 per session minute. These new rates shall become effective on December 1, 2009. All other terms and conditions of the TRS Contract will remain the same.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the TRS funding obligations of telephone corporations shall remain at their existing level.

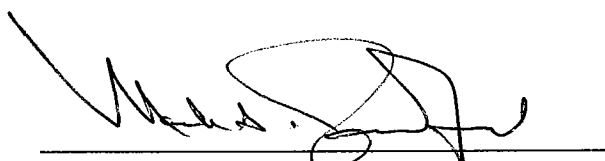
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the TRS Administrator continue to monitor expenditures, revenues, and FCC actions. Any time that the Administrator believes that revenues will not cover expenditures, he is to immediately notify the Commission so that we may evaluate whether changes in existing TRS funding obligations are necessary.

THIS IS A FINAL ORDER. Any person interested in this Order may petition for reconsideration within twenty-one (21) days of the service date of this Order. Within seven (7) days after any person has petitioned for reconsideration, any other person may cross-petition for reconsideration. See *Idaho Code* § 61-626.


DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 16th day of June 2009.


JIM D. KEMPTON, PRESIDENT


MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER


MACK A. REDFORD, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:


Jean D. Jewell
Commission Secretary

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