(text box: 1)BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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| IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF THE IDAHO RURAL EXCHANGE CARRIERS SPECIAL ACCESS TARIFF REVISIONS | ))))) | CASE NO. GNR-T-96-3ORDER NO.  26558 |

On April 5, 1996, an association of independent telephone companies that provide local exchange services to rural areas of the state —Idaho Rural Exchange Carriers (IREC)—filed tariffs to revise special access rates for Digital Data Service and High Capacity Service.  At its May 13, 1996, decision meeting, the Commission determined that the tariffs should be revised to reflect authority of the Companies to negotiate rates with access customers on an individual case basis.  The Commission also determined to suspend the tariffs as filed until the revisions could be made, and accordingly issued Order No. 26445 suspending the proposed effective date of May 15, 1996.

On July 12, 1996, the Companies filed the revised tariffs, which replace the specific dollar monthly charge for channel termination and channel mileage for both Digital Data Service and High Capacity (DS1) Service with the notation ICB for “individual case basis.”  The revised filing is consistent with the decision the Commission made at May 13, 1996, decision meeting, and Staff accordingly recommended acceptance of the revised tariffs.  The Companies also requested an effective date of May 15, 1996, as originally proposed.

We find that the revised tariffs conform to the decision of the Commission at its May 13, 1996, decision meeting and therefore should be approved.  We find it appropriate that the effective date of the tariffs is May 15, 1996, and we also accept Staff’s recommendation that the IREC, after actully providing service under the tariffs for six months, report to the Commission  the costs of providing such service.

O R D E R

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the revised tariffs filed by the IREC dated July 12, 1996, showing charges for Digital Data Service and High Capacity Service  are approved.  The effective date of the tariff is May 15, 1996.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the IREC, after actully providing service under the tariffs for six months, report to the Commission the cost of providing service under the traiffs.

THIS IS A FINAL ORDER.  Any person interested in this Order (or in issues finally decided by this Order) or in interlocutory Orders previously issued in this Case No. GNR-T-96-3  may petition for reconsideration within twenty-one (21) days of the service date of this Order with regard to any matter decided in this Order or in interlocutory Orders previously issued in this Case No. GNR-T-96-3 .  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                  day of August 1996.

                                                                                                                                       RALPH NELSON, PRESIDENT

                                                                                            MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER

DENNIS S. HANSEN, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

Myrna J. Walters

Commission Secretary

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**COMMENTS AND ANNOTATIONS**

Text Box 1:

**TEXT BOXES**

Office of the Secretary

Service Date

August 8, 1996