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

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| --- | --- | --- |
| IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITIONS REQUESTING EXTENDED AREA SERVICE (EAS) BETWEEN ARBON AND AMERICAN FALLS, ARBON AND POCATELLO, AND BETWEEN ROCKLAND AND AMERICAN FALLS.    IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITIONS FROM RESIDENTS IN BEAR LAKE COUNTY REQUESTING INCLUSION IN THE SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO EXTENDED CALLING AREA OF U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.    IN THE MATTER OF DIRECT COMMUNICA­TIONS ROCKLAND, INC.’S APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO INCREASE RATES AND DISBURSEMENTS FROM THE IDAHO USF. | )  )  )  )  )  )  )  )  )  )  )  )  )  )  )  )  )  )  )  ) | CASE NO.  GNR-T-96-5  CASE NO.  GNR-T-97-7  CASE NO. ROK-T-97-1      NOTICE OF  PROPOSED ORDER  ORDER NO.  27390 |

In the first two cases referenced above customers have petitioned the Commission for toll-free, extended area service (EAS) from the exchanges of Arbon, Rockland and Paris to the exchanges encompassed in the U S WEST Communications’ eastern Idaho calling region.  The third case is Direct Communications Rockland’s general rate case where the Company is seeking an increase to its annual revenue requirement of $121,428.  Public hearings in the EAS cases were held November 5-6, 1997.

On February 12, 1998, the Commission Staff, Direct Communications Rockland (Rockland) and its sister operating company Lakeside Communications (Lakeside) filed a Stipulation and Settlement resolving the disputed issues among themselves.  The parties to the Settlement agreement filed a joint Motion urging the Commission to adopt the settlement and requested that the Commission issue a proposed order.  The parties asserted that the settlement represents a reasonable resolution of the disputed issues and maintained that additional hearings are not warranted.  They observed that issuance of a proposed order would allow the parties and other interested persons to comment on the Settlement agreement and the Commission’s proposed resolution of the remaining issues.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ORDER

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that pursuant to Procedural Rule 312, the Commission is issuing the attached Proposed Order for comment.  IDAPA 31.01.01.312.  Any party may file exceptions and briefs to the Proposed Order within twenty-one (21) days from the service date of this Notice.  In addition, parties may file and serve answers to the party’s briefs to the exceptions within seven (7) days after service of the exceptions.  The Commission also invites members of the public to submit comments.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that written exceptions or comments concern­ing this Proposed Order should be mailed to the Commission at the address listed below:

Commission Secretary

Idaho Public Utilities Commission

472 W. Washington

PO Box 83720

Boise, ID 83720-0074

Parties filing exceptions or answers should serve those documents with the Commission and all other parties.  Exceptions, answers and comments should contain the case caption and case number shown on the first page of this document.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Commission may adopt or revise the Proposed Order in response to the exceptions or comments and issue a final order accordingly.  The Proposed Order is not an Order of the Commission unless it is later adopted by an Order.

O R D E R

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the attached Proposed Order be submitted for exceptions and comments to the parties and the public.  Exceptions or comments to the Proposed Order shall be filed with the Commission Secretary and other parties within twenty-one (21) days of the service date of this Order.  Any party filing answers to exceptions must do so within seven (7) days after service of the exceptions.

DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this                  day of  March 1998.

                                                                                                                                      DENNIS S. HANSEN, PRESIDENT

                                                                                           RALPH NELSON, COMMISSIONER

MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

Myrna J. Walters

Commission Secretary

bls/O-gnrt965.dh2

**COMMENTS AND ANNOTATIONS**

Text Box 1:

**TEXT BOXES**

Office of the Secretary

Service Date

March 3, 1998