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

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| IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITIONS FROM CITIZENS IN ABERDEEN, IDAHO, REQUESTING EXTENDED AREA SERVICE (EAS) BETWEEN ABERDEEN AND AMERICAN FALLS, AND ABERDEEN AND BLACKFOOT. | ))))))) | CASE NO.  GNR-T-96-7NOTICE OF HEARING |

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on October 26, 1994, the Commission received a Petition from citizens in the Aberdeen, Idaho area requesting toll-free calling between the exchanges of Aberdeen and Blackfoot.  On July 12, 1996, the Commission received another Petition from a group called “Citizens for EAS in Aberdeen” requesting toll-free calling between the exchangees of Aberdeen and American Falls and Aberdeen and Blackfoot.  The Commission deferred taking action on the petitions until it had completed the proposed sale by GTE of the Northwest of 18 telephone exchanges in the state of Idaho to Citizens Telephone Company.  The Aberdeen exchange is served by Citizens Communications Company of Idaho.  The American Falls and Blackfoot exchanges are served by U S WEST Communications.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that persons desiring to intervene in this matter for the purpose of presenting evidence or cross-examining witnesses at hearing must file a Petition to Intervene with the Commission pursuant to this Commission's Rules of Procedure 72 and 73, IDAPA 31.01.01.072 and -.073.  Persons intending to participate at the hearing must file a Petition to Intervene on or before October 10, 1997.  Persons desiring to present their views without parties' rights of participation and cross-examination are not required to intervene and may present their comments without prior notification to the Commission or the parties.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Commission will convene a technical hearing in this case on WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1997, AT THE ABERDEEN PUBLIC LIBRARY, 76 EAST CENTRAL IN ABERDEEN, IDAHO, COMMENCING AT 1:00 P.M.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that all hearings will be conducted pursuant to the Rules of Procedure adopted by the Idaho Public Utilities Commission.  IDAPA 31.01.01.000 et seq.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Commission has adopted the following schedule in this case:

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| --- | --- |
| Deadline to prefile testimony and exhibitsDeadline for rebuttal testimony and exhibits— to be received by all parties | October 15, 1997October 29, 1997 |

The prepared testimony and exhibits must conform to the requirements of Rules 230-231 of the Commission’s Rules of Procedure.

There will be no discovery deadline imposed in this proceeding.  The parties are directed to act in good faith in submitting and responding to discovery requests in accordance with the Commission’s Rules of Procedure.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that all hearings and prehearing conferences in this matter will be held in facilities meeting the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.  Persons needing the help of a sign language interpreter or other assistance of the kind that the Commission is obligated to provide under the Americans with Disabilities Act in order to participate in or to understand the testimony and argument at a public hearing may ask the Commission to provide a sign language interpreter or other assistance at the hearing.  The request for assistance must be received at least five (5) working days before the hearing by contacting the Commission Secretary at:

IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

PO BOX 83720

BOISE, IDAHO  83720-0074

(208) 334-0338  (TELEPHONE)

(208) 334-3151  (TEXT TELEPHONE)

(208) 334-3762  (FAX)

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Petitions in this case are available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Commission offices.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that all proceedings in this case will be held pursuant to the Commission’s jurisdiction under Title 61 of the Idaho Code and that the Commission may enter any final Order consistent with its authority under Title 61.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that all proceedings in this matter will be conducted pursuant to the Commission’s Rules of Procedure.

DATED at Boise, Idaho this                  day of September 1997.

Myrna J. Walters

Commission Secretary

vld/N:GNR-T-96-7.bp

**COMMENTS AND ANNOTATIONS**

Text Box 1:

**TEXT BOXES**

Office of the Secretary

Service Date

September 24, 1997