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

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| IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR EXTENDED AREA SERVICE (EAS)BETWEEN MALAD CITY AND REXBURG AND SURROUNDING AREAS, AND BETWEEN LOST RIVERS VALLEY AND OTHER SOUTHEAST IDAHO COMMUNITIES | ))))))) | CASE NO. GNR-T-97-6NOTICE OF PETITION |

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that in October 1997, the Commission received a petition from residents of the Lost Rivers Valley, which includes the communities of Arco, Moore, Butte City, Howe, Mackay, Leslie, and Darlington, requesting implementation of toll-free calling between their communities and other southeastern Idaho communities that comprise a large extended area service (EAS) region.  Basic telephone service in Lost Rivers Valley is provided by Westel, Inc.  The petitions allege generally that access to medical services, the Idaho Engineering and Environmental Laboratory, other businesses, and colleges and universities will be enhanced by including Lost Rivers Valley in the regional EAS.  Most petitioners indicated a willingness to pay an additional $3-$10 per month for telephone service.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that currently pending before the Commission is a case to consider implementing toll free calling between Malad City and Rexburg (Case No. GNR-T-97-6).  The local exchange carrier in Malad City also is Westel.  The Commission has determined to consolidate the Lost Rivers Valley petition with the pending case (Case No. GNR-T-97-6).  Following the completion of discovery of pertinent data, the Commission will establish a procedural and hearing schedule.

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 proceeding in this matter will be conducted pursuant to the Commission’s Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01.000 et seq.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the petitions in this case, Case No. GNR-T-97-6, can be reviewed at the Commission’s office during the regular business hours.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that U S WEST Communications, Inc. and Westel, Inc. are designated as parties to this case.

 DATED at Boise, Idaho this day of December 1997.

Myrna J. Walters

Commission Secretary

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**COMMENTS AND ANNOTATIONS**

Text Box 1:

**TEXT BOXES**

Office of the Secretary

Service Date

December 29, 1997