(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. | )  )  )  )  )  ) | CASE NO. GNR-T-97-6  NOTICE OF PETITION |

In February 1997, the Commission received petitions containing almost 200 signatures requesting toll-free calling between Malad City and Rexburg and surrounding areas.  In Case No. USW-S-96-4 the Commission approved three calling Extended Area Service (EAS) regions in the southern Idaho U S WEST territory.  Included as one of these three local calling areas is a “Southeastern Idaho Region” which includes Rexburg and other exchanges served by U S WEST.(footnote: 1)  Basic local telephone service in Malad City is provided by Westel, Inc..  Basic local telephone service in the Rexburg exchange is provided by U S WEST Communications, Inc.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the petitions generally assert that residents of Malad City want toll-free calling between Malad City and Rexburg and surrounding areas.  The petitions claim that granting EAS between Malad City and Rexburg and the other eastern Idaho areas would promote unity within the state of Idaho.  It further states that business, education, health care and personal uses will be greatly enhanced if extended area service is granted.  The petitions indicate that the majority of the signatories would be willing to pay between $5 and $10 maximum additional monthly amount for EAS.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that this proceeding has been initiated on the Commission’s own motion to consider the reasonableness of providing EAS between Malad City and Rexburg and surrounding areas.  Further scheduling will be accomplished at a later time.

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 June 1997.

Myrna J. Walters

Commission Secretary

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**FOOTNOTES**

1:

Included in the “Southeastern Idaho Region” are the following exchanges:  American Falls, Bancroft, Blackfoot, Dayton, Downey, Firth, Franklin, Grace, Idaho Falls, Inkom, Lava Hot Springs, Lewisville-Menan, Cameron, Montpelier, Pocatello, Preston, Rexburg, Rigby, Ririe, Riverside, Roberts, Shelley, Soda Springs and Thatcher.

**COMMENTS AND ANNOTATIONS**

Text Box 1:

**TEXT BOXES**

Office of the Secretary

Service Date

June 24, 1997