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

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| IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF GTE NORTHWEST INCORPORATED TARIFF ADVICE NO. 96-09 TO ADD RATES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR INTRALATA EQUAL ACCESS | )  )  )  )  )  )  )  ) | CASE NO. GTE-T-96-1  NOTICE OF PREHEARING CONFERENCE  ORDER NO.  26519 |

On May 22, 1996, GTE Northwest Incorporated  (GTE) filed Tariff Advice No. 96-09 to provide rates, terms and conditions for implementation of intraLATA equal access for its northern Idaho service.  New rate elements included in the filing were an intraLATA Equal Access Recovery Charge (EARC), interLATA Primary Interexchange Carrier (PIC) charge, intraLATA Primary Interexchange Carrier (IPIC) charge and charges for correcting unauthorized PIC and IPIC charges.

GTE proposed an effective date of June 24, 1996, for the proposed tariffs.  On June 7, 1996, the Commission suspended the filing, and on June 11 the Commission issued a Notice of Modified Procedure.  The Notice of Modified Procedure provided for a 45-day comment period, but also asked that any interested party requesting a hearing do so within 21 days.

On July 2, 1996, AT&T Communications filed a request for a hearing.  AT&T requested that a hearing be conducted to address several issues, including details of the methods for conversion and technical conversion capability, and whether presubscription for payphones is included in the intraLATA dialing parity conversion schedule and details of the payphone conversion.  IntraLATA presubscription is part of the requirements of the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 and GTE’s Tariff Advice is the first to be examined by the Commission.  Because AT&T and others have shown an interest, Staff also recommends that a hearing be convened.

After reviewing the proposed tariff and AT&T’s request for a hearing, we find that the public interest would be served by a hearing to consider GTE’s proposed Tariff Advice No. 96-09.  Because the Commission has determined to convene a hearing, it also is appropriate to suspend the Modified Procedure, including the comment period.  Interested parties should intervene and present testimony as part of the hearing process rather than file written comments.  Petitions to intervene should be filed by interested parties no later than August 19, 1996.

We also find that a prehearing conference should be scheduled for the purposes of formulating and simplifying the issues to avoid unnecessary proof, or for any other purpose set forth in the Commission’s Rule of Procedure 211.  IDAPA 31.01.01.211.  We intend to limit the hearing to intraLATA equal access issues presented by the Tariff Advice.

O R D E R

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Modified Procedure, and the comment period, previously established for this case are suspended.  The Commission will determine a date to convene a hearing and issue a Notice of Hearing.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a prehearing conference be convened on Monday, August 26, 1996, pursuant to the Commission’s Rules of Procedure 211-220, IDAPA 31.01.01.211-220, to identify and limit the issues and documents to avoid unnecessary proof, or for any other reason identified in Rule 211.

NOTICE OF PREHEARING CONFERENCE

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a prehearing conference is scheduled in this case for MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 1996, AT 2:30 P.M., IN THE HEARING ROOM OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION, 472 WEST WASHINGTON STREET, BOISE, IDAHO (334-0300).  The prehearing conference shall be for the purposes outlined in this Order and Notice, or as set forth in the Commission’s Rule of Procedure 211 (IDAPA 31.01.01.211).

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 prehearing conference must file a Petition to Intervene on or before August 19, 1996.

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 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)

DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this                  day of July 1996.

                                                                                                                                      RALPH NELSON, PRESIDENT

                                                                                           MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER

DENNIS S. HANSEN, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

Myrna J. Walters

Commission Secretary

vld/O:GTE-T-96-1.ws2

**COMMENTS AND ANNOTATIONS**

Text Box 1:

**TEXT BOXES**

Office of the Secretary

Service Date

July 19, 1996