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

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| IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF GTE NORTHWEST INCORPORATED  FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER IN THE STATE OF IDAHO PER FCC UNIVERSAL REPORT AND ORDER NO. 96-45. | )  )  )  )  )  )  )  ) | CASE NO. GTE-T-97-12  NOTICE OF PETITION  NOTICE OF MODIFIED           PROCEDURE  ORDER NO.  27196 |

On October 17, 1997, GTE Northwest Incorporated filed a Petition requesting that the Commission designate it as an “eligible telecommunications carrier” no later than January 1, 1998.  Before a telecommunications carrier may receive federal Universal Fund support, it must be designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier by the state Public Utilities Commission.  Federal universal service support includes high-cost support, reimbursement for discounts provided to low-income customers in the Lifeline and Link Up programs, and support for health care providers.  GTE serves approximately 100,000 customers in northern Idaho.

NOTICE OF PETITION

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that Section 214(e)(2) of the federal Telecommunications Act provides that a “State commission shall upon its own motion or upon request designate a common carrier that meets the requirements [established by the FCC] as an eligible telecommunications carrier for a service area designated by the State commission.”  47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(2).  GTE certifies that it meets the requirements for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier for its Idaho service area.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that to be designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier, a LEC must offer the following services as specified in the FCC’s Universal Service Order, CC Docket No. 96-45 (FCC 97-157), released May 8, 1997:

single-party service

voice grade access to the public switched network

touch-tone service

access to emergency services, including 911 and E911

access to operator services

access to interexchange service

access to directory assistance

toll limitation services for qualifying low-income consumers

Id. at ¶¶ 61-82.  GTE asserts that it offers the above-listed services using its own facilities and generally advertises the availability of these services pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1)(A) and (1)(B).  GTE further asserts that it offers Lifeline services consistent with Idaho statutes and has made Link Up services(footnote: 1) available for qualifying low-income consumers.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that GTE asks that the Commission grant it a waiver if the FCC requires that both toll blocking and toll control as a part of  toll limitation services.(footnote: 2)  GTE asserts that it is not clear whether the FCC’s USF Order requires that both be offered or only one or the other.  GTE maintains that it can provide toll blocking, “but does not presently have the capability of providing ‘toll control’ as described by the FCC.”   GTE Petition at 4.  “In case the FCC intends that both toll limitation services be offered, GTE requests the Commission to grant it waiver of the ‘toll control’ requirement, as authorized by the FCC Order.”  Id.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that GTE states that it is in the process of investigating whether modifications to its advanced credit management system could meet the FCC’s toll control requirements.  The Company notes that even if it can modify its systems to provide a toll control service, “such a toll limitation process can be effective only to the degree that interexchange carriers supply rated toll billing records to GTE on a timely basis for inclusion in the customers’ incurred balances and comparison to account credit limits, a practice that is not common in the industry at this time.”  Id. at 4.  Consequently, GTE requests a waiver of the toll control requirement for a period of 12 months, until January 1, 1999.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that GTE intends to provide its Lifeline customers toll-blocking at no charge.  At such time as toll control services become available, then Lifeline customers will be afforded the option of converting from “the toll-blocking … to a toll control service at no charge when the service becomes available.”  Id.

NOTICE OF MODIFIED PROCEDURE

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Commission has determined that the public interest may not require a formal hearing in this matter and will proceed under Modified Procedure pursuant to Rules 201 through 204 of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission's Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01.201 through -.204.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that any person desiring to state a position on this Application may file a written comment in support or opposition with the Commission within twenty-one (21) days from the date of this Notice.  The comment must contain a statement of reasons supporting the comment.  Persons desiring a hearing must specifically request a hearing in their written comments.  Written comments concerning this application shall be mailed to the Commission and the Applicant at the addresses reflected below:

COMMISSION SECRETARYRICHARD E. POTTER

IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSIONASSOCIATE GENERAL COUNSEL

PO BOX 83720GTE NORTHWEST INCORPORATED

BOISE, IDAHO  83720-00741800 41ST ST, MC: WA0105LE

EVERETT, WA 98201

Street Address for Express Mail:

472 W WASHINGTON ST

BOISE, IDAHO  83702-5983

These comments should contain the case caption and case number shown on the first page of this document.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that if no written comments are received within the time limit set, the Commission will consider this matter on its merits and enter its Order without a formal hearing.  If written comments are received within the time limit set, the Commission will consider them and, in its discretion, may set the same for formal hearing.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Petition has been filed with the Commission and is 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 or Title 62 of the Idaho Code and that the Commis­sion may enter any final Order consistent with its authority under Title 61 or Title 62.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that all proceedings 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 Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Idaho Code § 62-615(1).

O R D E R

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this matter be processed under Modified Procedure.  Persons interested in submitting written comments in this matter should do so within twenty-one (21) days from the date of this Order.

DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this                  day of October 1997.

                                                                                                                                      DENNIS S. HANSEN, PRESIDENT

                                                                                           RALPH NELSON, COMMISSIONER

MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

Myrna J. Walters

Commission Secretary

vld/O:GTE-T-97-12.dh

**FOOTNOTES**

1:

Link Up assists low-income subscribers to acquire new telephone service by paying half of the first $60.00 charge for the installation of service.  To be eligible for this program, an eligible subscriber must meet the state-established means test.  Link Up currently is funded through an adjustment that allocates the incumbent LEC’s Link-Up cost to the interstate jurisdiction, effectively passing them onto interexchange carriers.  USF Order at ¶ 344.

2:

“Toll blocking” is currently available in most Idaho exchanges and simply prohibits the customer from making long-distance calls. “Toll control” permits a customer to limit the toll charges he or she can incur during a billing period to a preset amount.  This latter service would require a substantial integration between the CO switch and the billing records of the customer.

**COMMENTS AND ANNOTATIONS**

Text Box 1:

**TEXT BOXES**

Office of the Secretary

Service Date

October 29, 1997