

DECISION MEMORANDUM

TO: COMMISSIONER KJELLANDER
COMMISSIONER SMITH
COMMISSIONER HANSEN
COMMISSION SECRETARY
COMMISSION STAFF
LEGAL

FROM: CECELIA A. GASSNER

DATE: OCTOBER 12, 2006

SUBJECT: IN THE MATTER OF INLAND CELLULAR'S PETITION FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER; CASE NO. INC-T-06-2

On June 29, 2006, Inland Cellular Telephone Company filed a Petition on behalf of Washington RSA No. 8 Limited Partnership d/b/a Inland Cellular ("Inland" or "Company") for designation as an Eligible Telecommunication Carrier (ETC) for service areas in Idaho that are currently serviced by other carriers. *See Idaho Code* § 61-610A and Order No. 29841. *Also see* 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(2). A Notice of Application was filed on September 6, 2006. Order No. 30123. On September 27, 2006, Inland supplemented its Application with further information. The Company filed additional supplemental information on October 12, 2006.

To date, three entities have intervened in this matter. On August 15, 2006, the Idaho Telephone Association (ITA) filed its Petition to Intervene, and on September 1, 2006, Citizens Telecommunications of Idaho dba Frontier Communications of Idaho ("Frontier") filed its Petition to Intervene. On September 12, 2006, Potlatch Telephone Company, Inc. ("Potlatch") filed its Petition to Intervene and its out-of-state counsel filed a Motion for Limited Admission. No objections were filed to any of the Petitions or to the Motion. ITA's Petition was granted. Order No. 30123. On October 5, 2006, Frontier's and Potlatch's Petitions were also granted, as was the Motion by Potlatch's counsel. Order No. 30144.

THE APPLICATION

According to the Application, Inland is authorized by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as the "B Band" cellular carrier in the northern section (within Idaho County) of Idaho 2 (B-2) Rural Service Area (RSA). Application at 2. Inland is also licensed by

the FCC as the "B Band" cellular carrier and has the authority to serve the southern section of Idaho 1 (B-2) RSA through a Rural Service Area Service Agreement and Option held by Inland Telephone Company. *Id.* Inland is a commercial mobile radio service (CMRS) provider and provides interstate telecommunications services. *Id.* Inland seeks designation as an ETC and to receive universal service support in certain non-rural wire centers located in Benewah, Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce Counties.

The Application contains certain information related to the Company's local usage plans, customer service and ability to provide service. The Company provides several pricing options for its customers, and also intends to invest funds in upgrading its infrastructure.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff believes that the supplemental information filed by the Company further completes its Application. Staff recommends that the Application be processed by Modified Procedure with a 30-day comment period. Staff also recommends that a deadline for intervention be established of October 30, 2006.

COMMISSION DECISION

Does the Commission preliminarily find that the public interest may not require a hearing to consider the issues presented in this case, and that this case is appropriate for Modified Procedure pursuant to Commission Rules of Procedure 201 through 204?

Does the Commission approve of the recommended comment period?

Does the Commission approve of the recommended deadline for intervention in this matter?



Cecelia A. Gassner

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