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IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Germane Subcommittees for Administrative Rules Review of the Senate and House State Affairs Committees

FROM: Research and Legislation Staff, Nugent *MPN*

DATE: October 8, 2009

RUL-T-09-01

SUBJECT: Proposed Public Utilities Commission Telephone Rules
31.41.01 - Customer Relations Rules for Telephone Corporations Providing Local Exchange or Intrastate MTS/WATS Service in Idaho Subject to Customer Service Regulation by the Idaho PUC Under the Public Utilities Law or the Telecommunications Act. Of 1988 (The Telephone Customer Relations Rules) - (Docket #31-4101-0901)
31.41.02 - Information to Customers of Telephone Companies (Docket #31-4102-0901 - Chapter Repeal)
31.42.01 - The Idaho PUC Rules for Telephone Corporations Subject to the Rules of the Idaho PUC Under the Telecommunications Act of 1988 (The Title 62 Telephone Corp. Rules (Docket #31-4201-0901 - Chapter Repeal)

Public Utilities Commission is proposing to repeal two administrative rules chapters relating to regulation of telephone companies and moving some of the stricken language to one rules chapter. In its notice of rulemaking the Commission states: "The law changes are intended to encourage competition in telephone services, and the proposed rules changes are consistent with that objective by simplifying regulatory requirements and allowing companies more flexibility to respond to customers' service requests, while maintaining some service quality standards related to basic local exchange service."

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We don't have any technical problems with the Commission's rulemaking. We do wish the Commission and the Rules Coordinator would use one docket for the repeal and reenactment or addition of the rules replacing the repealed ones. It seems wasteful to use three dockets to accomplish this purpose as the repeal and the new adoption are tied together. The Legislature frequently repeals statutes and enacts statutes in their place in one bill, not two bills or three bills.

cc: Idaho Public Utilities Commission
Jean D. Jewell & Weldon Stutzman