DECISION MEMORANDUM

TO:COMMISSIONER HANSEN

COMMISSIONER NELSON

COMMISSIONER SMITH

MYRNA WALTERS

STEPHANIE MILLER

DAVID SCHUNKE

DON HOWELL

BILL EASTLAKE

WAYNE HART

JOE CUSICK

BIRDELLE BROWN

BEVERLY BARKER

DAVID SCOTT

TONYA CLARK

WORKING FILE

FROM:CAROLEE HALL

DATE:MAY 13, 1997

RE:U S WEST ADVICE 97-06-S TO PROVIDE EAS TO THE POCATELLO AND IDAHO FALLS AREAS EFFECTIVE MAY 23, 1997.

On May 1, 1997, U S WEST filed this tariff advice in compliance with Order No. 26672 (Case No. USW-S-96-4) which orders EAS to be implemented throughout three regions in Southern Idaho.  This EAS will serve customers in the eastern Idaho area (American Falls, Bancroft, Blackfoot, Downey, Grace, Idaho Falls, Lava Hot Springs, McCammon, Pocatello, Rexburg, Rigby, Ririe, Roberts, Shelley and Soda Springs).  EAS with Preston and Montpelier will also be implemented at this time to comply with Order No. 26761(Case No. USW-T-96-13).  Per Order No. 26672, the tariff establishes a new Rate Group 3 for communities that fall under this plan.  Rate Group 3 will bill $15.62 per individual residential flat rate line and a monthly credit of $3.62 will be applied to the customer’s monthly bill until U S WEST’s rate case has been decided. Business lines will be billed at the new Rate Group 3 as well.

U S WEST has requested that this tariff become effective May 23, 1997 to coincide with the implementation of the final EAS region.  The requested effective date is less than the 30-day notice as required by Rule 31.01.123 of the Rules of Practice and Procedures of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission.  U S WEST has also eliminated recurring rural zone charges with this tariff filing, which is also compliance with Order No. 26672.

Staff recommends approval of this compliance filing.  Does the Commission agree?

Carolee Hall

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