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

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| IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.  FOR AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS RATES AND CHARGES FOR REGULATED TITLE 61 SERVICES.    IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.  FOR AN INTERCONNECTION COST ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM. | )  )  )  )  )  )  )  )  )  )  )  )  ) | CASE NO. USW-S-96-5  CASE NO. USW-T-97-2  NOTICE OF EXPEDITED  ORAL ARGUMENT/ PREHEARING CONFERENCE  ORDER NO.  26806 |

On February 3, 1997, AT&T  Communications filed a Motion to Consolidate U S WEST’s Interconnection Cost Adjustment Mechanism (ICAM) case with the U S WEST rate case (Case No. USW-S-96-5).  U S WEST has objected to this consolidation. On February 14, 1997, Intervenor American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) filed a Motion to Compel U S WEST to answer discovery and a Memorandum in Support of its Motion in the rate case.  On February 19, 1997, the Commission Staff filed a Motion to Compel U S WEST to answer discovery and a Motion for Extension of Time for Staff to file surrebuttal testimony.  Staff requested a six day extension until February 27, 1997.  Given the urgency of the Staff’s extension request, it urged the Commission to hold an expedited hearing on its Motions and AARP’s Motion following our regularly scheduled Decision Meeting at 1:30 p.m. on February 20, 1997.

Having reviewed the Motions filed by AT&T, AARP and the Commission Staff, we find that it is appropriate and reasonable to schedule oral argument on these motions.  The imminent deadline for Staff and Intervenor surrebuttal in the rate case of February 21, 1997 warrants our immediate consideration.  The Commission further finds that there is just cause to schedule this hearing on an expedited basis.  IDAPA 31.01.01.241.

O R D E R

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that oral argument on the Motions filed by AT&T, AARP and Staff be scheduled for THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1997 COMMENCING AT 2:00 P.M. IN THE COMMISSION HEARING ROOM AT 472 W. WASHINGTON, BOISE, IDAHO.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Commission Secretary transmit this Notice by facsimile to the parties.

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

                                                                                                                                      RALPH NELSON, PRESIDENT

                                                                                           MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER

DENNIS S. HANSEN, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

Myrna J. Walters

Commission Secretary

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**COMMENTS AND ANNOTATIONS**

Text Box 1:

**TEXT BOXES**

Office of the Secretary

Service Date

February 19, 1997