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

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| IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FROM ELMORE COUNTY RESIDENTS REQUESTING EXTENDED AREA SERVICE BETWEEN MOUNTAIN HOME AND BOISE AND BETWEEN GLENNS FERRY, HAMMETT, KING HILL AND BOISE. | ))))) | CASE NOS. USW-T-97-6                      USW-T-96-6 |
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| IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FROM WEISER, PAYETTE AND NEW PLYMOUTH  RESIDENTS REQUESTING EXTENDED AREA SERVICE BETWEEN WEISER, PAYETTE, NEW PLYMOUTH AND BOISE. | )))))) | NOTICE OF HEARINGS |

In these cases, customers have petitioned the Commission for toll-free, extended area service (EAS) from their exchanges to other nearby exchanges in Idaho.  In Case No. USW-T-97-6, residents of Elmore County petitioned for toll-free calling between Mountain Home and Boise and between Glenns Ferry, Hammett, King Hill and Boise.  In Case No. USW-T-96-6, customers living in Weiser, New Plymouth and Payette petitioned for toll-free calling between Weiser, New Plymouth, Payette and Boise.  U S WEST Communications, Inc. provides local exchange service to customers in Mountain Home, Boise, Glenns Ferry, Hammett, King Hill and to customers living in Weiser, New Plymouth and Payette.

In each case, the Petitioners allege that there is a strong community-of-interest between their exchanges and the exchanges or areas they wish to call toll-free.  The Petitions state that many customers call the requested areas for work, medical, government, school, and community needs.

NOTICE OF HEARING

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Commission will convene public hearings for the purpose of taking testimony from members of the public.  The first public hearing in Case No. USW-T-96-6 will be on WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1998, AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE PAYETTE HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM IN PAYETTE, IDAHO.  The second public hearing in Case No. USW-T-97-6 will be held on THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1998, AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE MOUNTAIN HOME JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, 1600 EAST SOUTH, MOUNTAIN HOME, IDAHO.  The purpose of the public hearings will be to receive evidence regarding the community-of-interest between the petitioning exchange customers and the requested calling areas.  In addition, the Commission invites testimony addressing the proposed rate increase (if any) that customers are willing to pay to obtain the extended local calling.  The parties are expected to provide a brief explanation of their respective positions at the start of the public hearings.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that all hearings in these matters will be held in facilities meeting the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.  Persons needing the help of a sign language interpreter or other assistance of the kind that the Commission is obligated to provide under the Americans with Disabilities Act in order to participate in or to understand the testimony and argument at a public hearing may ask the Commission to provide a sign language interpreter or other assistance at the hearing.  The request for assistance must be received at least five (5) working days before the hearing by contacting the Commission Secretary at:

IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

PO BOX 83720

BOISE, IDAHO  83720-0074

(208) 334-0338  (TELEPHONE)

(208) 334-3151  (TEXT TELEPHONE)

(208) 334-3762  (FAX)

  YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Petitions in these cases are available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Commission offices.  The prepared testimony and exhibits must conform to the requirements of Rules 230-231 of the Commission’s Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01.230-231.

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 Title 61 of the Idaho Code.

DATED at Boise, Idaho this                  day of August 1998.

                                                                                                                                       Myrna J. Walters

Commission Secretary

N:usws966.cc

**COMMENTS AND ANNOTATIONS**

Text Box 1:

**TEXT BOXES**

Office of the Secretary

Service Date

August 28, 1998