



State of Utah  
Department of Commerce  
Division of Public Utilities

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January 18, 2006



**TO: PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**FROM: DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**  
Constance B. White, Director  
Wes Huntsman, Manager, Telecommunications  
Bart Croxford, Utility Analyst

**Re: Increase in USF funding for UBTA-UBET Communications in Docket No. 05-53-01**

**Recommendation (begin new USF distribution January 1, 2006):**

The Division recommends that the new distribution of Universal Service Funds ("USF"), which is a result of Docket No. 05-053-01 begin January 1, 2006.

**Issues:**

The Division received a memo (attached) from Karl Searle, who is the Chief Financial Officer of UBTA-UBET Communications, dated January 4, 2006, in which he asserts that, since the Commission's Order was effective November 4, 2005, the new USF distribution would be effective beginning with that date.

The Division has read the Order and does not agree with Mr. Searle's interpretation. The Order clearly states that the terms of the stipulation shall take effect upon completion of the merger of Uintah Basin Telecommunications, Inc. and UBET Telecom, Inc. Mr. Searle stated in the same memo that the merger was completed on January 1, 2006, which should be the effective date of the new USF distribution, the Division believes.

Attachment

cc: Karl Searle, UBTA-UBET Communications  
Michael Ginsberg, Assistant Attorney General  
Committee of Consumer Services