

- BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH -

In the Matter of the Application of All West)
Communications, Inc. for USF Eligibility)
)
) DOCKET NO. 11-2180-01
) INTERIM ORDER APPROVING
) CONFIDENTIAL STIPULATION
)

ISSUED: October 20, 2011

By The Commission:

The above-captioned matter pertains to an application for Universal Service Funds eligibility filed by All West Communications, Inc. (“Company”) on March 14, 2011. On September 23, 2011, the Company and the Division of Public Utilities (“Division”) filed a Confidential Stipulation purporting to resolve some but not all of the issues raised in the Company’s application. Specifically, the parties’ agreement proposes to resolve all issues in this matter, except: 1) normalization of depreciation, and 2) the appropriate application of approved depreciation rates under group asset depreciation accounting to include treatment of fully depreciated accounts. On October 11, 2011, a hearing was conducted on whether to adopt the settlement proposal.

Kira Slawson appeared on behalf of the Company, Dahnelle Burton-Lee appeared on behalf of the Division, and Eric Orton, analyst, appeared on behalf of the Office of Consumer Services (“Office”). After some discussion about the Office and its role in this proceeding, both the Company and the Office clarified that the Office is not a party to the stipulation and, therefore, the references to the “Office” in paragraphs 14 and 16 of page 4 of the stipulation were redacted. Division witness Bill Duncan testified in support of the stipulation and recommended approval of it. No one appeared in opposition.

As analyzed by the Division, this stipulation, if approved, will increase the Company's Utah USF amount by \$797,700, for a total annual distribution of \$1,742,298. The Division believes this amount of Utah USF will allow the Company to provide safe, reliable, and affordable service to customers in the areas of Coalville, Kamas, and surrounding communities. The Division believes the stipulation is just, reasonable, and in the public interest.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Section 54-7-1 of the Utah Code Ann. states: "[t]he commission may adopt a settlement proposal if: (A) the commission finds that the settlement proposal is just and reasonable in result; and (B) the evidence, contained in the record, supports a finding that the settlement proposal is just and reasonable in result." Utah Code Ann. § 54-7-1(3)(d)(i)(A)-(B).

Based on the analysis presented by the Division, the Commission finds that the settlement proposal is just and reasonable in result, and in the public interest.

ORDER

The confidential stipulation is approved.

DATED at Salt Lake City, Utah, this 20th day of October, 2011.

/s/ Melanie A. Reif
Administrative Law Judge

DOCKET NO. 11-2180-01

- 3 -

Approved and Confirmed this 20th day October, 2011, as the Interim Order
Approving Confidential Stipulation of the Public Service Commission of Utah.

/s/ Ted Boyer, Chairman

/s/ Ric Campbell, Commissioner

/s/ Ron Allen, Commissioner

Attest:

/s/ Julie Orchard
Commission Secretary
D#210843

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on the 20th day of October, 2011, a true and correct copy of the foregoing INTERIM ORDER APPROVING CONFIDENTIAL STIPULATION, was served upon the following as indicated below:

By U.S. Mail:

Blackburn & Stoll, L.C.
Attention: Mr. Stanley K. Stoll
Ms. Kira M. Slawson
Counsel for All West Communications, Inc.
257 East 200 South, Ste. 800
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

TCA, Inc.
Attention: Mr. Kevin Kelly
526 Chapel Hill Drive, Ste. 100
Colorado Springs, CO 80920

By E-Mail:

Blackburn & Stoll, L.C.
Attention: Mr. Stanley K. Stoll
Ms. Kira M. Slawson (KiraM@blackburn-stoll.com)
Counsel for All West Communications, Inc.
257 East 200 South, Ste. 800
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

All West Communications
Attention: Mr. Matt Weller (Matt.Weller@allwest.com)

By Hand-Delivery:

Division of Public Utilities
160 East 300 South, 4th Flr.
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Office of Consumer Services
160 East 300 South, 2nd Flr.
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Administrative Assistant