

- BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH -

In the Matter of the Petition for a One Time)
Distribution on Behalf of Citizens In Garfield)
County)

DOCKET NO. 01-052-01
REPORT AND ORDER

ISSUED: February 1, 2002

SYNOPSIS

The Public Service Commission of Utah grants a one-time distribution from the State Universal Public Telecommunications Service Support Fund to facilitate the provision of telecommunications service, by South Central Utah Telephone, to the Blue Springs area of Garfield County, Utah.

By The Commission:

On January 8, 2001, the Commission received a request from a number of individuals to obtain telephone service at the Blue Springs area of Garfield County, where currently there is limited cellular service. The Commission requested the Division of Public Utilities (Division) to investigate the cost of providing service to this area on January 10, 2001. On January 11, 2002, the Division reported to the Commission on the expected costs of providing land line telecommunications service, through South Central Utah Telephone Association, a service provider certificated to serve the area; with a recommendation that the project be approved. The Division's recommendation contained a cost estimate for the project, and suggested contributions from the potential customers, South Central Utah Telephone, and the State Universal Public Telecommunications Service Support Fund (Fund), pursuant to Commission Rule 360.

These amounts would be a total of \$47,300 from the potential customers and \$57,300 for South Central Utah Telephone, with the Fund paying the remaining costs of the project. The Fund disbursement is estimated to be \$113,806. South Central Utah Telephone would be responsible for submitting the actual incurred costs to the Division for verification of the costs' reasonableness and necessity, with the final payment from the Fund being for those costs deemed to be reasonable and necessary for the project. We conclude that extension of land line based telephone service is in the public interest in improving the reliability of telephone service to the area and furthers universal service goals.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that:

1. The request for a one time distribution from the State Universal Public Telecommunications Service Support Fund, in an amount estimated to be \$113,806, is in the public interest and is approved.
2. The individual customers identified in the original request will pay \$2,365, per line requested, toward the cost of the project before the start of construction.
3. Under Rule360-9, any additional subscribers that sign up after construction begins will pay a 5% premium per line requested and following completion of construction, additional subscribers will pay a 10% premium per line requested for five years.
4. South Central Utah Telephone shall make a good faith effort to survey all potential customers in the area and offer them service at the \$2,365 rate per line before the beginning of construction.

5. South Central Utah Telephone shall place the same type of facilities and technology as was assumed in developing the construction costs estimate. Construction should be completed prior to the end of 2002.

6. Pursuant to Utah Code Ann. § 63-46b-13, an aggrieved party may file, within 20 days after the date of this Order, a written request for reconsideration by the Commission. Pursuant to Utah Code Ann. § 54-7-15, failure to file such a request precludes judicial review of the Order. If the Commission fails to issue an order within 20 days after the filing of such a request, the request shall be deemed denied. Judicial review of this Order may be sought pursuant to the Utah Administrative Procedures Act (Utah Code Ann. §§ 63-46b-1 et seq.)

DATED at Salt Lake City, Utah this 1st day of February, 2002.

/s/ Stephen F. Mecham, Chairman

/s/ Constance B. White, Commissioner

/s/ Richard M. Campbell, Commissioner

Attest:

/s/ Julie Orchard

Commission Secretary

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