



ITEM NO. CA5

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON  
STAFF REPORT  
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: February 6, 2001**

REGULAR AGENDA      CONSENT AGENDA   X   EFFECTIVE DATE     NA    

**DATE:** January 30, 2001

**TO:** Bill Warren through Phil Nyegaard

**FROM:** Cynthia Van Landuyt

**SUBJECT:** Oregon Exchange Carrier Association, Extension of Pool Participation Notice Requirements

**SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the Commission allow the extension of the pool participation notice requirements from February 15 to March 1 for the 2001 rate year only.

**DISCUSSION:**

On January 12, 2001, the Oregon Exchange Carrier Association (OECA) filed a request to extend the pool participation notice requirements contained in Part IX of the Oregon Customer Access Plan (OCAP) from February 15 to March 1, 2001.

The Commission, in docket UM 384, issued Order No. 93-1183 which adopted the 1994 Oregon Customer Access Plan (OCAP).<sup>1</sup> Part IX of the OCAP states, in part, that participation in the Oregon Customer Access Fund (OCAF) shall be optional for LECs on a year to year basis. Any LEC deciding not to participate for a future rate year shall notify the OPUC and OECA in writing of its decision by February 15 of the rate year in question.

OECA states several LECs are considering a change in their pool participation status related to the 2001 OECA Special Access and Billing and Collection Pool. Their decisions will be based upon conclusions reached in OECA Docket 00-02 relating to pooling and rate structure changes which are being considered for special access and billing and collection services offered by OECA member companies. OECA anticipates Docket 00-02 decisions on these matters will be made in early to mid February. Therefore,

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<sup>1</sup> The Commission, in Order No. 00-787, extended the OCAP indefinitely until a new Universal Service Fund (USF) program for the rural local exchange carrier (LEC) service areas can be adopted.

OECA is requesting a two week extension of the pool participation notice to allow LECs sufficient time to assess the effect of these decisions on their specific company.

Staff attended the OECA Docket 00-02 meetings and has no objection to the two week extension. The extension applies to this rate year only, the extension will not affect the OCAP prescribed filing date of the annual access charge tariff changes of March 15, 2001 as called for in the plan, it will not affect the July 1 effective date of the filing and the extension only applies to the 2001 rate year.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the Commission allow the extension of the pool participation notice requirements from February 15 to March 1 for the 2001 rate year only.