

ORDER NO. 03-106

ENTERED FEB 11 2003

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

OF OREGON

UM 384

In the Matter of)	
)	
An Investigation into Alternative Means)	ORDER
of Intrastate Separations and Settlement)	

DISPOSITION: EXTENSION GRANTED

On January 17, 2003, the Oregon Exchange Carrier Association (OECA) filed a request to extend the pool participation notice requirement contained in Part IX of the Oregon Customer Access Plan (OCAP) from February 15, 2003 to March 10, 2003.

At its public meeting on February 4, 2003, the Commission adopted Staff's recommendation to allow the extension of the pool participation notice requirements from February 15 to March 10 for the 2003 rate year only. Staff's recommendation is attached as Appendix A and is incorporated by reference.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that the pool participation notice requirements contained in Part IX of the Oregon Customer Access Plan is extended from February 15, 2003 to March 10, 2003, as described in Appendix A.

Made, entered and effective _____.

BY THE COMMISSION:

BECKY L. BEIER
Commission Secretary

A party may request rehearing or reconsideration of this order pursuant to ORS 756.561. A party may appeal this order to a court pursuant to ORS 756.580.

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: February 4, 2003**

REGULAR _____ CONSENT X EFFECTIVE DATE _____ NA _____

DATE: January 23, 2003

TO: John Savage through Phil Nyegaard

FROM: Cynthia Van Landuyt

SUBJECT: OREGON EXCHANGE CARRIER ASSOCIATION: Request to extend the pool participation notice deadline in Part IX of the OCAP until March 10, 2003.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Commission allow the extension of the pool participation notice requirements from February 15 to March 10 for the 2003 rate year only.

DISCUSSION:

On January 17, 2003, the Oregon Exchange Carrier Association (OECA) filed a request to extend the pool participation notice requirement contained in Part IX of the Oregon Customer Access Plan (OCAP) from February 15 to March 10.

The Commission, in docket UM 384, issued Order No. 93-1193 which adopted the 1994 OCAP.¹ Part IX of the OCAP stated, 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.

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¹ 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 anticipates an Oregon Universal Service Fund (OUSF) for rural carriers will soon be approved by the OPUC to become effective concurrent with the 2003 OECA tariff filings.² The OECA member companies would like to have as much time as possible to evaluate the impact of the rural OUSF on the OECA filings, which must be filed March 15, 2003. Therefore, OECA requests an extension of the February 15 deadline to March 10.

Staff has no objection to the three 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, 2003 as called for in the plan, and it will not affect the July 1 effective date of the filing.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Allow the extension of the pool participation notice requirement from February 15 to March 10 for the 2003 rate year only.

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² Typically, the annual OCAF filing is effective July 1 of the current year.