

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UM 1017(1)

In the Matter of)	
)	ORDER
OREGON EXCHANGE CARRIER)	
ASSOCIATION)	
)	
Request to extend the pool participation notice)	
deadline in Part VII of the Oregon Customer)	
Access Plan (OCAP) until June 1, 2006.)	

DISPOSITION: EXTENSION GRANTED

At its public meeting on February 21, 2006, the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Commission) adopted Staff's recommendation to allow the Oregon Exchange Carrier Association (OECA) to extend the pool participation notice requirement contained in part VII of the Oregon Customer Access Plan (OCAP). A description of case procedural history and details of the request are contained in the Staff Report, attached as Appendix A, and incorporated by reference.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the extension of the pool participation notice requirement from March 1 to June 1 for the 2006 rate year is approved.

Made, entered and effective FEB 28 2006

BY THE COMMISSION:



Becky L. Beier

Becky L. Beier
Commission Secretary

A party may request rehearing or reconsideration of this order pursuant to ORS 756.561. A request for rehearing or reconsideration must be filed with the Commission within 60 days of the date of service of this order. The request must comply with the requirements in OAR 860-014-0095. A copy of any such request must also be served on each party to the proceeding as provided by OAR 860-013-0070(2). A party may appeal this order by filing a petition for review with the Court of Appeals in compliance with ORS 183.480-183.484.

ITEM NO. CA3

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: February 21, 2006

REGULAR CONSENT EFFECTIVE DATE NA

DATE: February 8, 2006

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Cynthia Van Landuyt *CV*

THROUGH: *li* Lee Sparling and *PN* Phil Nyegaard

SUBJECT: OREGON EXCHANGE CARRIER ASSOCIATION: Request to extend the pool participation notice deadline in Part VII of the Oregon Customer Access Plan (OCAP) until June 1, 2006.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Commission allow the extension of the pool participation notice requirements from March 1 to June 1 for the 2006 rate year only.

DISCUSSION:

On February 1, 2006, the Oregon Exchange Carrier Association (OECA) filed a request to extend the pool participation notice requirement contained in part VII of the Oregon Customer Access Plan (OCAP) from March 1 to June 1, 2006.

The Commission, in docket UM 384, issued Order 93-1133 which adopted the 1994 OCAP. Subsequently, the Commission issued Order 03-294 adopting an amended OCAP as directed by Order 03-082 in docket UM 1017.¹ Part VII of the OCAP states, in part, that participation in the OECA pools shall be optional for Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (ILECs) on a year to year basis. Any ILEC deciding not to participate for a future rate year shall notify the OPUC and OECA in writing of its decision by March 1 of the rate year in question.

Order 03-082 adopted a stipulation detailing how the OUSF would expand to include support distributions to the rural ILECs. Among the various items, the stipulation includes directions on the cost model, the calculation of the support per line and the

¹ In docket UM 1017, the Commission expanded the Oregon Universal Service Fund (OUSF) to include disbursements to rural Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (ILECs).

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revenue offsets to ensure revenue neutrality. The primary offset is used to reduce state charges, specifically the Carrier Common Line (CCL).² The order also includes a 3-year review of costs. The expansion of the OUS Fund to include support disbursements to rural ILECs was implemented in November 2003. Staff is performing the 3-year review and plans a March 8, 2006 workshop to discuss the findings with the rural ILECs. As OECA states in its request, the companies would like to retain their options related to pool participation until the final OUSF support per line amounts are known.

Staff and OECA acknowledge that the final support amounts may not be known in time for the July 1, 2006, access charge implementation date.³ In that case, OECA will use current support per line amounts as an offset to the CCL revenue requirement. When new support amounts are finalized, OECA can make a subsequent filing.

Staff has no objection to the three month 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, 2006, as called for in the plan, and it will not affect the July 1 effective date of the filing.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

The extension of the pool participation notice requirement from March 1 to June 1 for the 2006 rate year be approved.

OECA extension request.doc

² The CCL is recognized as an implicit subsidy in access charges.

³ Typically, the annual OECA pool filing is effective July of the current rate year.