

ORDER NO. 99-635

ENTERED OCT 18 1999

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**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UM 922

In the Matter of the Petition for Extended Area)
Service by the ECHO TELEPHONE) ORDER
EXCHANGE.)

DISPOSITION: COMMUNITY OF INTEREST FOUND BETWEEN ECHO AND PENDLETON; NO COMMUNITY OF INTEREST FOUND BETWEEN ECHO AND UMATILLA AND ECHO AND BOARDMAN.

On February 2, 1999, the customers of the Echo telephone exchange (petitioners) petitioned the Commission for extended area service (EAS) to the Pendleton, Umatilla, and Boardman telephone exchanges. The Commission docketed the request as UM 922 for investigation.

On June 16, 1999, an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) issued a proposed order in this matter. The ALJ concluded that the proposed interexchange route between the Echo and Pendleton telephone exchanges met the Commission's objective criteria for a community of interest set forth in Order Nos. 89-815 and 92-1136. The ALJ further concluded, however, that the proposed interexchange routes between Echo and Umatilla and Echo and Boardman did not meet the Commission's community of interest criteria. Based on that conclusion, the ALJ recommended that those portions of the EAS petition be dismissed, unless the petitioners requested an opportunity to establish, through demographic, economic, financial, and other evidence that a community of interest exists. The proposed order advised the petitioners that such a request had to be filed within 15 days from the date of service.

Petitioners did not request a demographic hearing, and the time for doing so has expired. The proposed order, attached as Attachment 1, has been considered and is adopted.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

- 1. The following interexchange routes meet the objective community of interest requirements of Order Nos. 89-815 and 92-1136:

Echo/Pendleton

This completes Phase I for this portion of the docket. The petition is currently being processed under Phase II, the rate and cost phase of this proceeding.

- 2. The following interexchange routes do not meet the objective community of interest requirements of Order Nos. 89-815 and 92-1136:

Echo/Umatilla
Echo/Boardman

Petitioners did not request an opportunity to establish through demographic, economic, financial, or other evidence that a community of interest exists between the Echo and the Umatilla and Boardman exchanges. Those portions of the petition for extended area service are denied.

Made, entered, and effective _____.

Ron Eachus
Chairman

Roger Hamilton
Commissioner

Joan H. Smith
Commissioner

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 to a court pursuant to ORS 756.580.