

DS 98-132

BELL ATLANTIC - NEW HAMPSHIRE

Request to Introduce Integrated Services Digital Network -
Primary Rate Interface Enhancements and Optional Features

Order Granting Authority to provide Integrated Services
Digital Network - Primary Rate Interface Enhancements and
Optional Features

O R D E R N O . 23,016

September 10, 1998

On July 17, 1998, New England Telephone and Company, d/b/a Bell Atlantic - New Hampshire(BA-NH or Company) petitioned the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for authority to introduce Integrated Services Digital Network - Primary Rate Interface(ISDN-PRI) enhancements and optional features pursuant to RSA 374:22 and RSA 374:26. Along with the petition, BA-NH provided cost support data. On August 12, 1998, the Commission extended the time to review for 30 days. Order No. 22,998.

ISDN-PRI service enhancements and optional features, according to the Company, include Back-up D Channel capabilities, Intercom, Multiple Facility Signaling Control and Network Ring Again. Additionally, this filing proposes other tariff language modifications such as extending the existing minimum service commitment of one month to 12 months, introducing a new Variable Term Payment plan and prohibiting the transfer of services to another Carrier or Reseller.

Staff has reviewed the filing and supplemental cost study details. The cost details demonstrate that the recurring and non-recurring rates for ISDN-PRI service enhancements and optional features exceed the cost of providing such services. Therefore, Staff believes the filing is in the public interest and recommends approval. Staff notes, however, that many of the cost inputs used for developing these rates are identical to cost inputs currently under review in Docket DE 97-171, BA-NH's SGAT petition. To the extent that certain cost inputs change as a result of Staff's investigation in DE 97-171, Staff recommends that BA-NH be required to change ISDN-PRI cost inputs in the same manner as prescribed in DE 97-171.

After reviewing the petition and Staff's recommendation, we find Bell Atlantic's request to be in the public interest. We commend the Company for introducing new services that potentially provide customers access to advanced telecommunication services. We will also require Bell Atlantic to change recurring and non-recurring rates, if appropriate, so that such rates are in congruence with rates established in docket DE 97-171.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby
ORDERED, that the proposed request is APPROVED; and it
is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Bell Atlantic will change
recurring and non-recurring rates, if appropriate, so that such
rates are in congruence with rates established in docket DE
97-171.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New
Hampshire this tenth day of September, 1998.

Douglas L. Patch
Chairman

Bruce B. Ellsworth
Commissioner

Susan S. Geiger
Commissioner

Attested by:

Thomas B. Getz
Executive Director and Secretary