

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WYOMING

IN THE MATTER OF THE TARIFF FILING)

TETON TELECOM COMMUNICATIONS) DOCKET NO. 70016-TT-97-5

TO REVISE ITS LIFELINE SERVICE)

NOTICE AND ORDER

(Issued April 2, 1998)

This matter is before the Commission upon the amended application of Teton Telecom Communications, hereinafter referred to as Teton Telecom or the Company, requesting authority to revise its Low Income Lifeline/Telephone Assistance and Link-Up America programs.

The Commission, having reviewed the application, its files regarding Teton Telecom, applicable Wyoming utility law, and otherwise being fully advised in the premises, FINDS and CONCLUDES:

1. Teton Telecom is a telecommunications company as defined by W.S. § 37-15-103(a)(xi) and, as such, is subject to the Commission's jurisdiction pursuant to the provisions of W.S. § 37-15-401.
2. The Low Income Lifeline/Telephone Assistance Program, hereinafter referred to as the TAP, provides qualified telecommunications consumers a discount credit against the recurring monthly price for local residential telephone service of up to \$10.50. The TAP is available to low income customers who are certified by the Wyoming Department of Family Services as Medicaid eligible. Customers who have additionally been certified by the Department of Family Services as being physically handicapped are eligible to receive expanded services at their principal residence. The discount consists of a waiver of the \$3.50 monthly subscriber line charge, and up to a \$7.00 discount off of the local service price. This discount is partially funded at the federal level with the remaining portion funded at the state level. Teton Telecom proposes to fund this program through the assessment provisions contained within W.S. §§ 37-2-301 through 306.
3. The Link-Up America program is available to those customers who also qualify for the TAP. Link-Up America provides a 50% discount, up to \$30.00, on non-recurring connection charges. The program additionally allows for the deferred payment of such non-recurring connection
4. The Commission concludes that the public interest is served by approval of this application. These programs provide a mechanism by which customers who may not otherwise be able to afford local telephone services have access to

them. The changes proposed by Teton Telecom are in compliance with the Federal Communications Commission's requirements and will allow the Company the ability to continue to offer these important programs to customers.

5. Teton Telecom's application is on file at the Commission's offices located in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and may be inspected by any interested person during regular business hours.

6. Anyone desiring to file a statement, representation, protest or request a hearing regarding this matter must do so on or before April 30, 1998.

7. If you wish to intervene in this matter or request a public hearing which you will attend and you require reasonable accommodation for a disability, please contact the Wyoming Public Service Commission at (307) 777-7427 (voice or TTY) in Cheyenne during regular business hours or write to us at the Hansen Building, Suite 300, 2515 Warren Avenue, Cheyenne, Wyoming, 82002 to make arrangements. Communications impaired persons may also contact the Commission by accessing Wyoming Relay at 1-800-877-9965. Please mention the docket number in your communications and contact us as soon as possible to help us serve you better.

8. The Commission directs that the public notice in this matter be in the following form:

PUBLIC NOTICE

Teton Telecom Communications (Teton Telecom) has applied to the Wyoming Public Service Commission (PSC) for authority to modify its Low Income Lifeline/Telephone Assistance Program and Link-Up America programs.

The Low Income Lifeline/Telephone Assistance Program (TAP) provides qualified telecommunications consumers a discount credit against the recurring monthly price for local residential telephone service of up to \$10.50. The TAP is available to low income customers who are certified by the Wyoming Department of Family Services as Medicaid eligible. Customers who have additionally been certified by the Department of Family Services as being physically handicapped are eligible to receive expanded services at their principal residence. The discount consists of a waiver of the \$3.50 monthly subscriber line charge, and up to a \$7.00 discount off of the local service price. This discount is partially funded at the federal level with remaining portion being funded at the state level. Teton Telecom proposes to fund this program through the assessment provisions contained within W.S. §§ 37-2-301 through 306.

The Link-Up America program is available to those customers who also qualify for the TAP. Link-Up America provides a 50% discount, up to \$30.00, on non-recurring connection charges. The program additionally allows for the deferred payment of such non-recurring connection

You may review Teton Telecom's application at the PSC's offices in Cheyenne, Wyoming during regular business hours.

To intervene, request a hearing, file a statement or protest this application, you must file with the PSC, mentioning Docket No. 70016-TT-97-5, on or before April 30, 1998.

If you wish to participate and require reasonable accommodation for a disability, call the PSC at (307) 777-7427 or write us at 2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 300, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002. Communications impaired persons may contact the PSC through Wyoming Relay at 1-800-877-9965.

Dated April 2, 1998.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. Pursuant to emergency open meeting action taken on December 24, 1997, which was affirmed on January 6, 1998, the amended application of Teton Telecom Communications for authority to modify its Telephone Assistance and Link-Up America programs effective January 1, 1998, should be, and hereby is, approved, subject to public notice, possible protest, hearing or any other action the Commission deems necessary.

2. This Notice and Order is effective immediately.

MADE and ENTERED at Cheyenne, Wyoming, this 2nd day of April, 1998.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WYOMING

STEVE ELLENBECKER, Chairman

KRISTIN H. LEE, Deputy Chair

STEVE FURTNEY, Commissioner

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

IVAN H. WILLIAMS, Assistant Secretary