

STATE OF ALASKA

THE REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA

Before Commissioners:

G. Nanette Thompson, Chair
Bernie Smith
Patricia M. DeMarco
Will Abbott
James S. Strandberg

In the Matter of the Consideration)
of the Reform of Intrastate Inter-) R-98-1
exchange Telecommunications Market)
Structure and Regulations in Alaska) ORDER NO. 4
_____)

**ORDER ISSUING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
TO REGULATIONS FOR COMMENT AND
ESTABLISHING HEARING AND FILING SCHEDULE**

BY THE COMMISSION:

By Order R-98-1(1), dated May 1, 1998, the Commission initiated an investigation into the reform of the intrastate interexchange market structure and associated policies. By that Order, the Commission also established a schedule for filing comments in this proceeding. By Order R-98-1(2), dated May 26, 1998, the Commission granted an emergency motion to modify the filing schedule. Written comments and reply comments were filed in this proceeding between June 12, 1998, and July 15, 1998.

On October 16, 1998, the Commission Staff (Staff) submitted a Report that included a summary of the written comments, recommendations on the issues, and draft regulation changes. Staff's Report is attached to this Order as Appendix A and the proposed regulation changes are attached as Appendix B.

At its Public Meeting on September 8, 1999, the Commission determined the proposed regulation changes should be issued for comment on whether the Commission should adopt the draft regulations proposed by Staff and whether any other changes to the Commission's interexchange carrier regulations are necessary.

The proposed changes include:

3 AAC 52.360(a) - This section deals with access charge payment information that an intrastate interexchange telephone service certificate applicant must include in its application.

3 AAC 52.355 and .361 - These sections dealing with prohibitions and notifications on the construction of facilities in rural locations by interexchange carriers are repealed.

3 AAC 52.370 - This section is amended to authorize interexchange carriers to offer limited promotions to attract customers.

3 AAC 52.375 - This section deals with the provisions that an interexchange carrier's wholesale rates tariff must contain.

3 AAC 52.377 - This new section is added to impose an interconnection requirement on interexchange carriers that own facilities.

3 AAC 52.380(e) and (f) - These new subsections are added to impose additional reporting requirements on interexchange carriers regarding modernization and capital planning.

3 AAC 52.385 - This section is amended to prohibit local service disconnection for failure to pay long distance charges.

3 AAC 52.387 - This new section is added to require interexchange carriers to attempt to resolve disputes, over wholesale rates and interconnection with other carriers, through dispute resolution procedures.

3 AAC 52.390 - This section is amended to make interexchange carriers responsible for public notice of tariff revisions.

Written comments on this matter must be filed with the Commission by 4 p.m., December 30, 1999. Reply comments must be filed by January 18, 2000. Since this is a regulation proceeding, commentators are not required to serve their comments on the other entities set out on the service list of this Order. However,

interested persons may request from the Commission copies of the comments filed in this proceeding.

A public hearing to receive oral comments is scheduled to convene at 8:30 a.m., February 1, 2000. Persons wishing to present oral comment are requested to file a statement of that intent by January 18, 2000; however, such a statement is not mandatory.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION FURTHER ORDERS:

1. A public hearing¹ in this proceeding is scheduled to convene at 8:30 a.m., February 1, 2000, in the Commission's hearing room at 1016 West Sixth Avenue, Suite 305, Anchorage, Alaska, for the purpose of taking comment on the proposed changes to the Commission regulations as set out in Appendix B to this Order.

2. Those individuals wishing to present oral comment at the public hearing scheduled above are requested to notify the Commission of their intent by 4 p.m., January 18, 2000.

¹If you are a person with a disability who may need a special accommodation, auxiliary aid, or service or alternative communication format in order to participate in this hearing, please contact Diane Hunt at 1-907-276-6222 or TTY 1-907-276-4533 at least two weeks before the hearing to make the necessary arrangements.

3. By 4 p.m., December 30, 1999, any interested person may file with the Commission written comments² addressing the proposed changes to the Commission regulations as well as the other issues, addressed in Appendix B to this Order. The Commission requests that commentors include a summary of their comments as well as a diskette of the comments in either IBM compatible text (.txt) format, WordPerfect for Windows 6.1 (or earlier) format, or Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format.

4. By 4 p.m., January 18, 2000, any interested person may file with the Commission written comments in response to the comments filed pursuant to Ordering Paragraph No. 3 above. Commentors are requested to include a summary of their reply comments as well as a diskette of the comments in either IBM compatible text (txt) format, WordPerfect for Windows 6.1 (or earlier) format, or Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format.

DATED AND EFFECTIVE at Anchorage, Alaska this 3rd day of December, 1999.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION

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²As discussed above, commentors are not required to serve their comments on other persons on the mailing list of this Order. Copies of filed comments may be obtained from the Commission's Records & Filing Section at the address reflected in the left margin hereof.