

**DT 05-012**

**UNION COMMUNICATIONS**

**Tariff Filing Eliminating Multi-party Service**

**Order *Nisi* Granting Approval of Proposed Tariff Filing**

**ORDER NO. 24,434**

**February 11, 2005**

On January 19, 2005, Union Communications (Union) submitted tariff revisions seeking to eliminate two-party service for effect February 18, 2005. Union's two-party service was grandfathered in Docket No. DE 95-011, by Order No. 21,523 issued February 7, 1995. Union's two-party service customers have declined to 126, of which there is one business customer. These two-party service customers receive single party service but only pay the reduced two-party service rate. Sixty-nine of the customers are seasonal customers and pay half-rate during the off-season. Union has determined that providing actual two-party service to those subscribing customers that are within standard service distances would require modification of the existing DMS-10 switches. These modifications would require software changes, additional Nortel cards for each subscriber, and premise work by a Union technician. As a result, Union avers, these customers are receiving a greater service than they are paying for, and are being subsidized by other Union customers.

The Commission Staff (Staff) has reviewed the filing and recommends approval noting that the proposed revision will not change the class of service and has a minimal impact on the revenue of the company. The rate impact for two-party residential customers will be an increase of \$1.67 in the Gilmanton Iron Works exchange; \$1.58 in the Barnstead and Center

Barnstead exchanges and \$1.50 in the Alton and New Durham exchanges; there will be an increase of \$5.75 for the Barnstead business customer.

We have reviewed the filing and agree with Staff's recommendation that the two-party rate should be eliminated thus removing multi-party service from Union's tariff. We will require Union to work with Staff to draft a letter to notify each affected customer by separate mailing of the rate increase, of the customer's right to request a hearing or submit comments and inform two-party customers of Lifeline.

In order to allow time for public comment we will extend the time for review of this tariff filing for 30 days, consistent with RSA 378:6 IV.

**Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby**

**ORDERED *NISI***, that subject to the effective date below, the proposed tariff pages shall be allowed to go into effect; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that Union shall work directly with the Consumer Affairs Staff on the customer notification letter as outlined above, to be mailed separately by first class mail to each affected customer; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that the Petitioner shall cause a copy of this Order *Nisi* to be published once in a statewide newspaper of general circulation or of circulation in those portions of the state where operations are conducted, such publication to be no later than February 21, 2005 and to be documented by affidavit filed with this office on or before March 14, 2005; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that all persons interested in responding to this Order *Nisi* be notified that they may submit their comments or file a written request for a hearing

which states the reason and basis for a hearing no later than February 28, 2005 for the Commission's consideration; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that any party interested in responding to such comments or request for hearing shall do so no later than March 7, 2005; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that this Order *Nisi* shall be effective March 14, 2005, unless the Petitioner fails to satisfy the publication obligation set forth above or the Commission provides otherwise in a supplemental order issued prior to the effective date; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that the Petitioner shall file compliance tariffs with the Commission on or before March 21, 2005 with an effective date of March 21, 2005, in accordance with N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 1603.02 (b).

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this eleventh day of February, 2005.

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Thomas B. Getz  
Chairman

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Michael D. Harrington  
Commissioner

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Graham J. Morrison  
Commissioner

Attested by:

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Michelle A. Caraway  
Assistant Executive Director & Secretary