

**DT 06-150**

**GRANITE STATE TELEPHONE, INC.**

**Tariff Filing Eliminating Multi-Party Service**

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

**ORDER NO. 24,700**

**November 22, 2006**

On October 25, 2006, Granite State Telephone, Inc. (GST) submitted tariff revisions that would eliminate two-party service for effect on November 24, 2006. GST's two-party service for the Chester exchange was grandfathered on August 15, 1977, and the Hillsboro Upper Village, Washington, and Weare exchanges were grandfathered on January 13, 1997. GST has fifty two-party service customers, one of which is a business customer. These two-party service customers receive single-party service at the reduced two-party service rate. Thirty-four of the customers have their bill sent to another location. GST has determined that providing actual two-party service to the subscribing customers would create an additional expense for the company. According to GST, these two-party service customers are receiving single-party service at the reduced two-party rate, and are being subsidized by other GST customers.

The Commission Staff (Staff) reviewed the filing and recommended approval noting that the proposed revision will not change the service received by these customers and has a minimal impact on the revenue of the company. The rate impact per month for two-party residential customers will be an increase of \$3.70 in the Chester exchange, \$4.70 in the Weare exchange, and \$4.00 in the Hillsboro Upper Village and Washington exchanges. There will be an increase of \$6.20 for the one business customer in Chester.

We have reviewed the filing and agree with Staff's recommendation that two-party service should be eliminated from GST's tariff. We will require GST to work with Consumer Affairs Division 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 of the availability of the Lifeline program, pursuant to Puc 412.07. In order to allow time for public comment we will extend the time for review of this tariff filing for 30 days, pursuant to RSA 378:6, IV.

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

**ORDERED**, pursuant to RSA 378:6, IV the time for review of the proposed tariff changes submitted by Granite State Telephone, Inc. is extended for 30 days; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED *NISI***, that subject to the effective date below the proposed tariff changes are approved; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that Granite State Telephone, Inc. send each affected customer by first class mail a written notice of the resulting change in service approved by the Director of the Consumer Affairs Division of the Commission; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that Granite State Telephone, Inc. 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 December 1, 2006 and to be documented by affidavit filed with this office on or before December 22, 2006; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that all persons interested in responding to this petition be notified that they may submit their comments or file a written request for a hearing on this matter before the Commission no later than December 8, 2006; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that any party interested in responding to such comments or request for hearing shall do so no later than December 15, 2006; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that this Order *Nisi* shall be effective December 23, 2006, 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 December 22, 2006, with an effective date of December 23, 2006, in accordance with N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 1603.02(c) and Puc 1603.07.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twenty-second day of November, 2006.

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Thomas B. Getz  
Chairman

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Graham J. Morrison  
Commissioner

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Clifton C. Below  
Commissioner

Attested by:

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Debra A. Howland  
Executive Director & Secretary