

DT 07-019

TELECOMMUNICATIONS RELAY SERVICE

**Order Directing Local Exchange Carriers to Adjust Rate Paid to Telecommunications
Relay Service Trust Fund**

ORDER NO. 24,731

February 16, 2007

The Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS), established pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, provides people who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, or speech-impaired the ability to communicate with hearing people over the telephone. Pursuant to Commission Order No. 20,236, dated (September 10, 1991), Sprint has provided TRS in New Hampshire since the program's implementation on November 8, 1991. The TRS program is funded through a trust fund (the Fund) established by incumbent local exchange carriers (LECs) operating in New Hampshire. On January 28, 1992, the LECs signed a Telephone Relay Service Trust Agreement setting forth the operating rules and procedures for the Fund. In accordance with that agreement, the Commission has the authority to monitor and oversee the Fund. The Fund itself has been administered by Citizens Bank (Citizens) and its predecessors since the Fund's inception. All payments to Sprint to cover the cost of providing the relevant services, as well as any other expenditures related to TRS, are drawn from the Fund.

Monies for the Fund are generated through monthly remittances from all LECs operating in the state. The amount of the monthly remittance is determined by the Commission and applied uniformly throughout the state. As part of its monitoring role, the Commission periodically reviews the Fund level and adjusts the rates charged to LECs accordingly. LECs, in turn, are permitted under N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 412.02 and Puc 432.02 to recoup the cost by collecting TRS charges equal to the amount ordered by the Commission through monthly

basic service charges.

On February 14, 2007, Staff submitted a memo to the Commission recommending that the monthly TRS rate be reduced from four cents per access line to two cents per access line, and from two cents to one cent for inactive seasonal rate lines. Staff believes that the current balance exceeds the expenditure requirements of the Fund and that this would be corrected most efficiently through a rate reduction.

We accept Staff's recommendation and set the TRS rate at two cents per access line and one cent per inactive seasonal rate line, effective April 1, 2007. All LECs are reminded that, pursuant to Puc 412.02 and Puc 432.02, TRS payments must be remitted monthly to the Fund before the twentieth of each month.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that remittances paid monthly by LECs to the TRS Trust fund be based on a rate of two cents per access line, and one cent per seasonal rate line during the off-season; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, incumbent LECs shall file revised tariff pages, and competitive LECs that include TRS charges in their monthly basic service charges shall file revised price sheets, effective April 1, 2007, reflecting the rate change in accordance with N.H. Code Admin. Rules PARTs Puc 400 and 1600.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this sixteenth day of
February, 2007.

Thomas B. Getz
Chairman

Graham J. Morrison
Commissioner

Clifton C. Below
Commissioner

Attested by:

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director & Secretary