

DT 03-236

**MERRIMACK COUNTY TELEPHONE COMPANY
KEARSARGE TELEPHONE COMPANY**

Joint Petition to Modify Service Territory Boundaries

Order Nisi Approving Boundary Modifications

O R D E R N O. 24,282

February 20, 2004

On December 26, 2003, Merrimack County Telephone Company (MCT) and Kearsarge Telephone Company (KTC) filed a petition to modify the service territory boundaries of MCT and KTC as described below and as depicted on revised franchise maps submitted with the petition.

The petition requests approval to modify the service territory boundaries between:

- 1) KTC's New London exchange and MCT's Sutton exchange,
- 2) MCT's Bradford and Sutton exchanges,
- 3) KTC's Salisbury exchange and MCT's Contoocook exchange,
- 4) KTC's Salisbury exchange and MCT's Warner exchange,
- 5) KTC's Salisbury exchange and MCT's Contoocook exchange,
- 6) KTC's Andover and Salisbury exchanges,
- 7) MCT's Contoocook and Warner exchanges,
- 8) MCT's Hillsboro and Antrim exchanges.

The petition to modify the service territory boundaries of KTC's New London exchange and MCT's Sutton exchange is being

submitted because housing construction has begun in the former King Ridge ski area which straddles the New London and Sutton exchange boundaries. It is more economic to serve the area from the Sutton exchange.

The petition to modify the service territory boundaries of MCT's Bradford and Sutton exchanges is being submitted to properly update the records because in 1987 a pole extension in the Sutton exchange provided available facilities to a customer on Old Newbury Road instead of a longer facility construction from the Bradford exchange. The other proposed boundary changes have no impact on customers as there are currently no customers receiving service from MCT or KTC in the areas where the boundaries will change.

RSA 374:30 permits a utility to transfer franchise territory to another utility upon a determination by the Commission that such transfer is for the public good. The companies avow no assets are being sold or transferred between the parties as a result of this agreement. Inasmuch as the transfer will facilitate efficient service and maintenance in the service area, we find that the petition serves the public good.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED NISI, that subject to the effective date below, that the proposed New London, Sutton, Bradford, Salisbury, Contoocook, Warner, Andover, Hillsboro, and Antrim exchange

boundary changes are approved as filed; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that MCT and KTC file properly annotated tariff pages in compliance with this Commission order no later than 30 days from the effective date of this order as required by NH Admin. Rules, Puc 1603.02, along with two copies of the relevant maps; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that MCT and KTC shall provide a copy of this order by first class mail to the Town Clerks of New London, Sutton, Bradford, Salisbury, Contoocook, Warner, Andover, Hillsboro, and Antrim and publish the Order Nisi in a newspaper with circulation in the areas affected by the proposed changes no later than March 1, 2004 and to be documented by affidavit filed with this office on or before March 15, 2004; 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 March 8, 2004; 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 15, 2004; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that this Order Nisi shall be effective March 22, 2004, unless MCT and KTC fail to satisfy the publication obligation set forth above or the Commission provides

otherwise in a supplemental order issued prior to the effective date.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twentieth day of February, 2004.

Thomas B. Getz
Chairman

Susan S. Geiger
Commissioner

Graham Morrison
Commissioner

Attested by:

Lori A. Legerstee
Assistant Secretary