

DT 06-150

GRANITE STATE TELEPHONE, INC.

Tariff Filing Eliminating Multi-Party Service

Order Extending *Nisi* Period

ORDER NO. 24,717

December 22, 2006

On October 25, 2006, Granite State Telephone, Inc. (GST) submitted tariff revisions that would eliminate two-party service effective 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. The Commission, on November 22, 2006, issued Order No. 24,700 which extended the time for review of the proposed tariff changes submitted by GST to allow for public comment and approved the changes on a *nisi* basis effective December 23, 2006. In addition to requiring publication prior to December 1, 2006, in a statewide newspaper of general circulation or of circulation in those portions of the state where operations are conducted, Order No. 24,700 required GST to 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. That notice would alert customers to the opportunity to request a hearing or to submit comments to the Commission prior to December 8, 2006, as well as inform them of the rate increase and of the availability of the Lifeline program, pursuant to Puc 412.07.

On December 6, 2006, GST filed with the Commission an affidavit of publication of Order No. 24,700. On December 12, 2006, GST forwarded a draft customer notification letter to the Director of the Consumer Affairs Division. At that point, it became evident that GST's

proposed notification to each affected customer by separate mailing would not permit customers to meet the deadline set for comments and hearing requests.

On December 21, 2006, GST filed a statement with the Commission agreeing to waive its rights with respect to the time limitations set forth in RSA 378:6, IV so as to provide for revised dates for notice and comment and a tariff revision effective date of February 1, 2007.

Accordingly, we extend the *nisi* period to allow time for public comment on the proposed changes and require GST to provide notice directly to customers as prescribed by Order No. 24,700.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that Granite State Telephone, Inc. send to each affected customer by first class mail no later than December 28, 2006, a written notice approved by the Director of the Consumer Affairs Division of the Commission of the resulting change in service, the opportunity for comment or request for hearing, and the availability of the Lifeline program; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that all persons interested in responding to this petition submit comments or file a written request for a hearing on this matter before the Commission no later than January 12, 2007; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party interested in responding to such comments or request for hearing shall do so no later than January 19, 2007; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the effective date of Order No. 24,700 is extended until January 26, 2007, unless the Petitioner fails to satisfy the notice 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 January 29, 2007, with an effective date of February 1, 2007, 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 December, 2006.

Thomas B. Getz
Chairman

Graham J. Morrison
Commissioner

Clifton C. Below
Commissioner

Attested by:

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director & Secretary