

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**DT 11-024**

**UNION TELEPHONE COMPANY**

**Petition for an Alternative Form of Regulation**

**ORDER OF NOTICE**

On February 4, 2011, Union Telephone Company (Union) filed a Petition for an Alternative Form of Regulation pursuant to RSA 374:3-b with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission). The petition and subsequent docket filings, other than information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, will be posted to the Commission's website at <http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2011/11-024.html>.

Union is a rural incumbent local exchange carrier providing telephone services in Alton, Barnstead, Center Barnstead, Gilmanton Iron Works and New Durham, New Hampshire. It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of TDS Communications Corporation and serves fewer than 25,000 access lines in New Hampshire. Pursuant to RSA 374:3-b, Union seeks Commission approval of its plan for alternative regulation that would permit it to be regulated in a manner more comparable to competitive local exchange carriers in New Hampshire. According to its petition, Union is facing competitive pressures from other carriers operating in its service territories, specifically, MetroCast Cablevision of New Hampshire, LLC (MetroCast) and IDT America Corp. (IDT), and is in need of an alternative form of regulation to remain competitive.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to whether the requirements of RSA 374:3-b, which requires the Commission to consider: (1) whether competitive wireline, wireless or broadband service is available to a majority of retail customers in each exchange; (2) that the

plan provides for maximum basic local service rates; (3) if the plan promotes innovative telecommunications services; (4) if the plan meets inter-carrier service obligations; and (5) whether the plan preserves universal access to affordable basic telephone service, are met; whether Union's plan for alternative regulation is otherwise just and reasonable. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense.

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

**ORDERED**, that a Prehearing Conference, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15, be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on March 1, 2011 at 10:00 a.m., at which each party will provide a preliminary statement of its position with regard to the petition and any of the issues set forth in N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15 shall be considered; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that, immediately following the Prehearing Conference, Union, the Staff of the Commission and any Intervenors hold a Technical Session to review the petition and allow Union to provide any amendments or updates to its filing; and it is

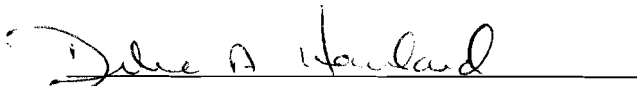
**FURTHER ORDERED**, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, Union shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than February 18, 2011, in a newspaper with general circulation in those portions of the state in which operations are conducted, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before March 1, 2011; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.17, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission seven copies of a Petition to Intervene with copies sent to Union and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before February 27, 2011, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties,

privileges, immunities or other substantial interest may be affected by the proceeding, as required by N.H. Code Admin. Rule Puc 203.17 and RSA 541-A:32,I(b); and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before March 1, 2011.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this fourteenth day of February, 2011.

  
Debra A. Howland  
Executive Director

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability should contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, NHPUC, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429; 603-271-2431; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance should be made one week prior to the scheduled event.