

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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July 23, 2007

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director & Secretary
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301



Re: DT 07-027, Kearsarge Telephone Company, Wilton Telephone Company,
Hollis Telephone Company and Merrimack County Telephone Company
Petition for an Alternate Form of Regulation

Dear Ms. Howland:

The Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) requests that the Commission conduct public statement hearings in the service territory of the four TDS companies in the above-referenced docket to solicit comments from TDS customers. The Commission's rules require, in some circumstances, that the Commission hold public statement hearings in the service territory of a utility, such as when it is proposing a major change in its service or rates.¹ We believe that it is appropriate to hold hearings in locations within the companies' service territories for the public to provide comments on the TDS proposal for an alternative regulation plan. Such public statement hearings would provide the public with an opportunity to learn more about the company's proposed plan, as well as provide the Commission with the public's views on the proposal.

New Hampshire Legal Assistance, on behalf of Ross Patnode, supports this request.

Should the Commission decide to hold such hearings, the OCA would be pleased to assist as appropriate. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Meredith A. Hatfield
Consumer Advocate

cc: service list (via email)

¹ Puc Rule 201.02(b)(2) requires a public statement hearing if "[i]t would assist the commission to ascertain the views of the utility's customers by conducting such a hearing in a particular location other than Concord."

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