

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

DT 07-027

ORDER OF NOTICE

On March 1, 2007, Kearsarge Telephone Company (KTC), Wilton Telephone Company (WTC), Hollis Telephone Company (HTC) and Merrimack County Telephone Company (MCT), wholly-owned subsidiaries of TDS Telecommunications Corporation (TDS Telecom), filed petitions with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission) seeking approval for an alternate form of regulation pursuant to RSA 374:3-b. The proposal, if approved, would result in regulation of the TDS companies' retail operations comparable to the regulation currently applied to competitive local exchange carriers, subject to certain additional requirements.

The petitioners seek Commission approval of a plan that would set maximum basic local rates: 1) that are comparable to those of Verizon New Hampshire; and 2) that do not increase by more than 10 percent (10%) per year for the four years immediately following approval of the plan. The proposed rate plan provides for an exception to the 10% per year cap in the form of additional rate adjustments, subject to Commission review and approval, to reflect changes in federal, state or local government taxes, mandates, rules, regulations or statutes.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to whether the proposal meets the requirements of RSA 374:3-b. RSA 374:3-b requires the Commission to consider whether: 1) competitive wireline, wireless or broadband service is available to a majority of retail customers in each exchange; 2) the plan provides for maximum basic local service rates; 3) the plan promotes innovative telecommunications services; 4) the plan meets intercarrier service

obligations; and 5) the plan preserves universal access to affordable basic telephone service.

Each party has the right to have an attorney represent them at their own expense.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that a Prehearing Conference, pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.15, be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on May 4, 2007 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. Admin. Rule Puc 203.15 shall be considered; and it is

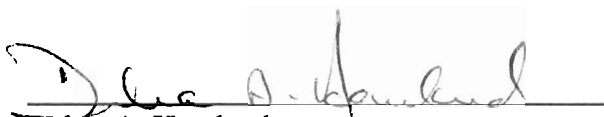
FURTHER ORDERED, that, immediately following the Prehearing Conference, KTC, WTC, HTC, MCT, the Staff of the Commission and any Intervenors hold a Technical Session to review the petition and allow KTC, WTC, HTC and MCT to provide any amendments or updates to its filing; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, KTC, WTC, HTC and MCT shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than April 16, 2007, 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 May 4, 2007; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. 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 KTC, WTC, HTC, MCT and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before May 1, 2007, 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. 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 May 4, 2007

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this tenth day of April, 2007.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Debra A. Howland", written over a horizontal line.

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director & Secretary

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.