

DT 99-089

**BELL ATLANTIC**

**Request to Revise ISDN Basic Service Tariff  
Order Extending the Time to Review by 30 Days**

**O R D E R   N O .   23,257**

**July 12, 1999**

On June 11, 1999, New England Telephone and Telegraph, Company, d/b/a Bell Atlantic - New Hampshire (Bell Atlantic) petitioned the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission), pursuant to RSA 374:22 and RSA 374:26, for authority to introduce revisions to a tariffed service known as ISDN Basic. Along with the petition, Bell Atlantic provided cost information in support of the filing.

Concurrently, Bell Atlantic filed a Motion for Protective Order, seeking to exempt portions of the cost information from public disclosure. The Commission will rule on that motion separately. However, pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 204.06, the identified portions will be kept confidential until the Commission rules on the motion.

According to the Company, this filing enhances ISDN Basic service by:

- (1) Expanding the provision of Incoming Calling Line Identification from only digital centrex services to all exchange services;
- (2) Introducing Multiline Hunt Groups, Call Forwarding

Variable, Call Forwarding Does Not Answer, Call Forwarding Busy, Additional Call Offering, and Associated Groups optional features;


- (3) Removing the restriction "Only one of each type basic service capabilities is allowed on the same line" in order to accommodate multipoint type of arrangements;
- (4) Changing text references of Intellipath to Digital Centrex;
- (5) Introducing Internet Access, Home Office, and Deluxe optional feature packages;
- (6) Introducing 20 hour, 60 hour, and 140-hour optional circuit switched data local usage packages;
- (7) Introducing a specific circuit switched data rate for ISDN Basic Centrex customers;
- (8) Eliminating ISDN Basic Virtual Serving Arrangement (VSA) nonrecurring charge and monthly rate; and,
- (9) Reducing the ISDN Basic three-month minimum service period to one month.

Staff has performed a preliminary review of the filing and cost support information. Based on its review, Staff contends the proposed filing raises a number of significant issues which require additional time to investigate. Staff's concerns include, but are not limited to; (1) the introduction of a usage charge for data on Intra-Centrex lines, where none

previously existed and whether reasonable notice has been given to effected customers, (2) the proposed requirement that certain customers who wish to purchase a 20, 60 or 120 hour package must also purchase a measured business line in order to obtain the service, and (3) an apparent conflict in the existing tariff that precludes customers from having both a measured and an unlimited line at the same location. In addition, it is Staff's understanding that the intended purpose of the proposed filing is to help alleviate traffic congestion on the public switched network. However, based on comments made by certain Internet Service Providers (ISPs) during the Commission's investigation into the traffic congestion docket (DT 99-020), it is not clear whether the intended purpose will be achieved. As a result of these concerns, Staff recommends the Commission issue an order extending the time to review the petition by 30 days and schedule a hearing.

Based on our review of Bell Atlantic's petition and Staff's recommendation, we will extend the time to review the filing for 30 days and schedule a hearing to accept comments on the proposed revisions. The extension will allow Staff additional time to investigate the effects of the proposed revisions on ISP customers, and whether or not the proposed revisions help to alleviate congestion on the public switched network.


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

**ORDERED,**  at the time to review Bell Atlantic's proposed ISDN Basic tariff revisions is extended for 30 days pursuant to RSA 378:6,IV; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED,** that a hearing be held on August 4, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. at the Public Utilities Commission, 8 Old Suncook Road, Concord, New Hampshire; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED,** that interested persons wishing to be heard on this matter, file written comments by the close of business August 2, 1999; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED,** that pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.01, Bell Atlantic notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than July 19, 1999, in a newspaper with statewide circulation and of general circulation in that portion of the state in which operations are conducted, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before August 4, 1999; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED,** that  pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.02, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission an original and eight copies of a Petition to Intervene with copies sent to Bell Atlantic and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before July 30, 1999, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties,

privileges, immunities or other substantial interests may be affected by the proceeding, as required by N.H. Admin. Rule Puc 203.02 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 August 4, 1999.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twelfth day of July, 1999.

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Douglas L. Patch  
Chairman

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Susan S. Geiger  
Commissioner

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Nancy Brockway  
Commissioner

Attested by:

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Thomas B. Getz  
Executive Director and Secretary