

DT 99-089

BELL ATLANTIC

Request to Revise ISDN Basic Service Tariff

Order Approving Tariff with Revision

O R D E R N O. 23,280

August 11, 1999

APPEARANCES: Victor DelVecchio, Esq. for Bell Atlantic-New Hampshire; Kathryn M. Bailey for the Staff of the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission.

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 Service. 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.

On July 12, 1999, the Commission issued Order No. 23,257 extending the time to review the proposed tariff and scheduling a hearing. On August 4, 1999, the Commission held a hearing on the issues identified in Order No. 23,257.

Staff concerns addressed at the hearing included (1) the introduction of a usage charge for data on Intra-Centrex

lines, where none previously existed and whether reasonable notice had been given to affected 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 was Staff's understanding that the intended purpose of the proposed filing was to help alleviate traffic congestion on the public switched network.

At the hearing, Bell Atlantic explained that the proposed tariff would not introduce a usage charge for data on Intra-Centrex lines. Rather, the per message charge was being eliminated and usage for local calls outside the Centrex group was being reduced to \$.006 per minute. As such, there was no addition to Centrex rates where none previously existed and no customers appeared at the hearing to oppose the reduction in rates.

Bell Atlantic also explained that the intended purpose of the proposed filing was not to help alleviate traffic congestion on the public switched network. However, Bell Atlantic agreed with comments made by certain Internet Service Providers (ISPs) during the Commission's investigation into the traffic congestion docket (DT 99-020) that a flat rated ISDN tariff could help alleviate congestion if customers were willing to disconnect and reconnect to the Internet because of the

improved speed of ISDN.

Bell Atlantic confirmed that the proposed tariff requires customers who wish to purchase a 20, 60 or 120 hour ISDN Circuit Switched Data local usage package must also purchase a measured business line in order to obtain the service. Due to the requirement in the general regulations of the existing tariff which precludes customers from having both measured and unlimited exchange service at the same location, customers who subscribe to the proposed ISDN Circuit Switched Data local usage package would be obligated to convert any unlimited exchange service to measured. After questioning, Bell Atlantic agreed to reconsider this conflict and propose a solution, if possible, by August 9.

On August 9, 1999, Bell Atlantic filed a letter with the Commission, stating that it would revise the proposed tariff filing to allow the combination of unlimited and measured exchange service when the line is equipped with an ISDN Circuit Switched Data local usage package.

On August 10, 1999, the Commission received a memo from the Commission Staff, recommending that the tariff be approved with the revision suggested by Bell Atlantic in its letter dated August 9, 1999.

Based on the proposed revisions to the tariff and the testimony offered at the hearing, we believe that the proposed tariff is in the public interest and will therefore approve it.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that Bell Atlantic's proposed tariff for ISDN

Basic Service, Tariff No. 77,

Part C, Section 10,

- Page 2 3rd Revision
- Page 3 1st Revision
- Page 5 1st Revision
- Page 11 1st Revision
- Page 12 1st Revision
- Page 13 2nd Revision
- Page 14 1st Revision
- Page 15 1st Revision
- Page 16 1st Revision
- Page 17 1st Revision and

Part M, Section 3,

- Page 13 3rd Revision
- Page 14 2nd Revision
- Page 29 2nd Revision
- Page 30 2nd Revision
- Page 31 2nd Revision
- Page 32 2nd Revision
- Page 33 3rd Revision
- Page 34 3rd Revision
- Page 35 4th Revision
- Page 36 3rd Revision
- Page 37 2nd Revision; is approved as filed with the

amendment agreed to in Bell Atlantic's letter dated August 9, 1999, described above, effective on the date of this Order.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this eleventh day of August, 1999.

Douglas L. Patch
Chairman

Susan S. Geiger
Commissioner

Nancy Brockway
Commissioner

Attested by:

Claire D. DiCicco
Assistant Secretary

