

10/19/01

DT 01-185

VERIZON NEW HAMPSHIRE

**Tariff Filing Introducing Enhanced ISDN PRI Hub Service
Order Extending Review Period and Establishing Hearing**

O R D E R N O. 23,815

October 19, 2001

On September 21, 2001, Verizon New Hampshire (Verizon NH) filed with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission) a tariff introducing an Enhanced Integrated Services Digital Network Primary Rate Interface (ISDN PRI) hub service. Verizon NH asserts this service is targeted towards the Remote Access Provider (RAP) market and will provide a LATA-wide, single-number routing offering to RAPS (ISPs). The ISP would then offer its dial-up customers a single telephone number to dial into the service from any location within the boundaries of the LATA. The ISP would also be required to purchase dedicated high-speed access facilities to receive traffic collected by Verizon at predetermined interconnection points. The filing also seeks to remove references regarding ISDN PRI Universal Service Order Code (USOCs) from Part M of Verizon's current tariff.

On October 17, 2001, a number of Independent Telephone Companies (ICOs) filed a request to intervene in the docket indicating their interest in the docket and noting that issues in the docket directly affect the way ICO customers obtain dial-up access to

internet service providers. A request for partial intervention was filed on October 18, 2001, by BIT-NET, an ISP and consumer of Verizon PRI service.

On October 18, 2001, Staff of the Commission (Staff) filed a memorandum expressing some concern over the filing and noting that the same tariff was filed in October, 2000 and later withdrawn by the Company due to unresolved issues with the ICOs. Staff asserted that it believes that the offering as filed is incomplete. It noted that while the tariff purports to allow customers the ability to have a single number for access to the service throughout the state, this cannot be accomplished until agreements have been worked out between Verizon and the ICOs.

Staff, however, also contended such a service would be anticipated to have benefits, particularly with respect to the preservation and efficient use of existing numbering resources. Staff further noted that this service offering has implications relative to the VNXX issues being explored in Docket No. DT 00-223, especially with respect to issues relating to the appropriate inter-carrier compensation arrangements for carriage of calls to ISPs.

Given the concerns of Staff and the request for intervention by the ICOs, this Commission believes the filing raises, inter alia, issues related to the interplay between this tariff and the VNXX docket. Accordingly, pursuant to RSA 378:6, IV, we will

extend the time for a decision on this tariff by 30 days, until November 20, 2001. We will also schedule a hearing for November 1, 2001. This will give all interested parties an opportunity to comment on whether the tariff should immediately go into effect.

We will require any party interested in commenting on the tariff to file testimony or comments no later than October 29, 2001.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that a decision on the ISDN PRI hub tariff will be extended for a period of 30 days; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that a hearing be held before the Commission located at 8 Old Suncook Road, Concord, New Hampshire on November 1, 2001 at 10:00 a.m., at which each interested party will provide a statement of its position; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party desiring to be heard at the hearing provide written comments or testimony no later than October 29, 2001; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the hearing will be recorded by stenographic method; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.01, Verizon NH shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than October 24, 2001, in a newspaper with statewide circulation,

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publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before November 1, 2001; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, the Assistant Executive Director ensure a copy of this Order is mailed via first class mail to the service list in Docket No. DT 00-223; 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 Verizon NH and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before October 29, 2001, 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 November 1, 2001.

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By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New
Hampshire this nineteenth day of October, 2001.

Thomas B. Getz
Chairman

Susan S. Geiger
Commissioner

Nancy Brockway
Commissioner

Attested by:

Claire D. DiCicco
Assistant Secretary

Any individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability, should contact the American with Disabilities Act Coordinator, NHPUC, 8 Old Suncook Road, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-7319; 603-271-2431; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Preferably, notification of the need for assistance should be made one week before the scheduled event.