

DT 00-054  
DT 00-223

**LOCAL CALLING AREAS BETWEEN INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE COMPANIES AND  
COMPETITIVE LOCAL EXCHANGE CARRIERS  
AND  
INVESTIGATION AS TO WHETHER CERTAIN CALLS ARE LOCAL**

**Order Establishing Status Conference**

**O R D E R    N O.    23,849**

**November 29, 2001**

In 2000, the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission) opened Docket Nos. DT 00-054 and DT 00-223 to investigate issues related to local calling in New Hampshire. The Order of Notice issued in DT 00-223 on October 16, 2000 consolidated some of the issues of Docket No. DT 00-054 into DT 00-223 asserting that such consolidation would conserve and focus Commission resources. The Order of Notice indicated that once the common issues were resolved Docket No. DT 00-054 could then proceed efficiently.

Hearings were scheduled in DT 00-223 for April 11 through 13, 2000. A request, however, was filed to postpone the hearings so that settlement discussions could proceed. On April 10, 2001, the Commission postponed the hearings issuing a secretarial letter that indicated such discussions would promote the orderly and efficient conduct of the proceeding. As of the date of this Order, the Commission has not received indication that settlement is imminent or even possible.

On November 13, 2001, a group of the independent telephone companies represented by Devine, Millimet & Branch filed a Motion for Status Conference in both DT 00-054 and DT 00-223. The motion represented that Verizon New Hampshire has sent letters to the independent telephone companies indicating that it intends to commence billing for transit charges - a charge that was heretofore not billed - on or about January 1, 2002. The motion also asserted that notwithstanding good faith settlement attempts there was little likelihood of resolution of the issues in this docket. Finally, the motion also indicated that while Staff, Verizon New Hampshire, Global NAPs, Inc., Bay Ring Communications, Union Telephone Company and the New Hampshire Internet Service Providers Association did not necessarily concur with, or take a position as to the Companies' assertions on the issues as stated in the motion, none objected to the convening of a status conference.

It should also be noted that, in addition to the various independent telephone companies' request for the status conference, the Staff of the Commission has asked for a status conference in DT 00-223 during the recent proceeding in DT 01-185 concerning a Verizon tariff, a filing which was later withdrawn by Verizon.

Given the passage of time and the fact that no resolution to Docket No. DT 00-223 seems imminent, we believe a

status conference is warranted at this time. Accordingly, we will require the Staff and Parties to appear before us on January 16, 2002 to discuss the unresolved issues in Docket No. DT 00-223 and, to the extent related, DT 00-054. Each party should also be prepared to state their positions on those issues and recommend a process and a schedule for complete resolution of DT 00-223.

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

**ORDERED**, that the Motion for Status Conference filed by Granite State Telephone, Inc. et al is hereby **GRANTED**; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that a Status Conference will be held at the Commission offices on January 16, 2002, at 10:00 a.m.

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By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New  
Hampshire this twenty-ninth day of November, 2001.

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Thomas B. Getz  
Chairman

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Susan S. Geiger  
Commissioner

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Nancy Brockway  
Commissioner

Attested by:

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Claire D. DiCicco  
Assistant Secretary