

**DT 04-101
DT 04-102
DT 04-103
DT 04-104**

TDS TELECOM

**Tariff Filings Introducing Total Talk Bundle for
Hollis, Wilton, Merrimack County, and Kearsarge Telephone Companies**

Order Nisi Granting Approval of Proposed Tariff Filings

ORDER NO. 24,343

July 2, 2004

On June 7, 2004, TDS Telecom submitted Total Talk Bundle tariff filings for Hollis Telephone Company (Hollis), Wilton Telephone Company (Wilton), Merrimack County Telephone Company (MCT), and Kearsarge Telephone Company (KTC); revising the Hollis NHPUC No.1 tariff, the Wilton NHPUC No. 5 tariff, the MCT NHPUC No. 9 tariff, and the KTC NHPUC No. 8 tariff. The proposed tariffs have an effective date of July 7, 2004.

Total Talk Bundle provides a customer with a combination of local and optional services for a flat monthly rate. Total Talk Bundle includes dial tone, unlimited local usage, and five optional services: 3-Way Calling; Call Waiting; Calling Name Delivery (Caller ID Name); Unidentified Call Rejection (Anonymous Call Rejection); and Selective Distinctive Alert (Priority Ringing). Total Talk Bundle is available only to customers who also subscribe to a companion toll product offered by a TDS long distance affiliate. The combined package, Total Talk Bundle and toll, is referred to as Total Talk Pack. The long distance portion of the Total Talk Pack is available in increments of 100, 200, 400, and 600 minutes with additional minutes available at 10 cents per minute.

The Commission Staff (Staff) has reviewed the proposed Total Talk Bundle tariff filings and asserted that the Total Talk Bundle passes a price floor analysis. Staff reports that these filings will allow residential customers to purchase local and toll services with features for a fixed monthly rate, while at the same time allowing TDS the ability to offer a package similar to a flat rate cellular package. However, Staff also points out that a bundled service such as Total Talk Pack, which combines a local product for which wireline competition is not authorized with a toll product which is competitive, may have anti-competitive effects in the toll market.

We find that customers looking for a fixed monthly rate for telephone service may benefit from a bundled service such as Total Talk Pack and that such an offering may be reasonable to compete with similar cellular packages. However, we agree with Staff about the concern for the wireline competitive toll market and invite comment from interested parties, specifically competitive toll providers serving TDS local customers. Pursuant to RSA 378:6, IV, we may extend the time for review of this petition by up to 30 days. In order to provide an opportunity for comment, we will extend the time for review to July 31, 2004.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED NISI, that subject to the effective date below, the proposed tariff pages shall be allowed to go into effect; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the time for review of the proposed tariff is extended to July 31, 2004; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Petitioner shall cause a copy of this Order Nisi to be published once in a statewide newspaper of general circulation or of circulation in those

portions of the state where operations are conducted, such publication to be no later than July 12, 2004 and to be documented by affidavit filed with this office on or before July 26, 2004; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that all persons interested in responding to this petition be notified that they may submit their comments or file a written request for a hearing on this matter before the Commission no later than July 23, 2004; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party interested in responding to such comments or request for hearing shall do so no later than July 27, 2004; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that this Order Nisi shall be effective August 1, 2004, unless the Petitioner fails to satisfy the publication obligation set forth above or the Commission provides otherwise in a supplemental order issued prior to the effective date; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Petitioner shall file compliance tariffs with the Commission on or before August 9, 2004 with an effective date of August 6, 2004, in accordance with N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 1603.02(b).

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this second day of July, 2004.

Thomas B. Getz
Chairman

Susan S. Geiger
Commissioner

Graham J. Morrison
Commissioner

Attested by:

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director & Secretary