

DT 04-191

**MERRIMACK COUNTY TELEPHONE COMPANY
GRANITE STATE TELEPHONE, INC.**

Joint Petition to Modify Service Territory Boundaries

Order *Nisi* Approving Boundary Modifications

ORDER NO. 24,422

January 7, 2005

On October 15, 2004, Merrimack County Telephone Company (MCT) and Granite State Telephone, Inc. (GST) filed a petition to modify the service territory boundaries of MCT and GST as described below and as depicted on revised franchise maps submitted with the petition.

The petition requests approval to modify the service territory boundaries in Hillsboro on East Washington Road, Gleason Falls Road, Sawmill Road, and Beard Road; and in Deering on Homestead Road and Reservoir Road.

The request to modify the service territory boundaries on Gleason Falls Road in Hillsboro is submitted to correct an inconsistency between MCT's and GST's boundary exchange maps currently on file.

The request to modify the remaining service territory boundaries redefines the areas to reflect the current provision of service.

The proposed boundary changes will affect one MCT customer on Sawmill Road in Hillsboro, one MCT customer on Reservoir Road in Deering and one GST customer on Reservoir Road in Deering. These customers will be notified by letter of their opportunity to

retain their current service and be grandfathered or to change providers if desired. No other customers are affected in the remaining areas where the boundaries will change.

RSA 374:30 permits a utility to transfer franchise territory to another utility upon a determination by the Commission that such transfer is for the public good.

The transfer will facilitate efficient service and maintenance in the service area; we thus find the petition to be for the public good.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED *NISI*, that subject to the effective date below, that the proposed Hillsboro and Deering exchange boundary changes are approved as filed; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that MCT and GST file properly annotated tariff pages in compliance with this Commission order no later than 30 days from the effective date of this order as required by NH Admin. Rules, PUC 1603.02, along with two copies of the relevant maps; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that MCT and GST shall provide a copy of this order by first class mail to the Town Clerks of Hillsboro, Deering and the three affected customers; and publish the Order *NISI* in a newspaper with circulation in the areas affected by the proposed changes no later than January 17, 2005 and to be documented by affidavit filed with this office on or before February 7, 2005; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that new service be provided pursuant to the approved exchange boundaries; 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 which

states the reason and basis for a hearing no later than January 24, 2005 for the Commission's consideration; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party interested in responding to such comments or request for hearing shall do so no later than January 31, 2005; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that this Order *Nisi* shall be effective February 7, 2005, unless MCT and GST fail to satisfy the publication obligation set forth above or the Commission provides otherwise in a supplemental order issued prior to the effective date.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this seventh day of January, 2005.

Thomas B. Getz
Chairman

Michael Harrington
Commissioner

Graham Morrison
Commissioner

Attested by:

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director & Secretary