

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF COLUMBINE) CASE NO. COL-T-21-01
TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.’S)
APPLICATION TO CHANGE THE MANNER) NOTICE OF APPLICATION
IN WHICH FACILITIES EXTENSIONS ARE)
HANDLED) SUSPENSION OF PROPOSED
) EFFECTIVE DATE
)
) NOTICE OF
) MODIFIED PROCEDURE
)
) ORDER NO. 35075

On May 14, 2021, Columbine Telephone Company, Inc. dba Silver Star Communications (“Company”) filed changes to its tariff with the Commission. The Company proposes to change how the cost of a line extension will be shared between the applicant and the Company. The Company proposed a June 15, 2021 effective date for the modified tariff.

At the June 8, 2021 Decision Meeting, Commission Staff noted the proposed changes constitute an increase in rates and therefore should not be handled through a tariff advice. Staff suggested the Commission initiate a formal proceeding to determine whether the proposed tariffs comply with the Commission’s regulatory requirements.

With this Order, the Commission converts the Company’s proposed tariff modifications into an Application to be processed by Modified Procedure, suspends the Company’s proposed effective date, and establishes comment deadlines.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Company’s existing tariff provides that a line extension will be provided without charge to the applicant if the cost of the total extension does not exceed \$1,600.00. If the total extension exceeds \$1,600.00, the “applicant will reimburse the Company the total amount exceeding the established aid to construction in effective prior to construction.”

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that under the Company’s proposed tariff, a line extension “not exceeding 500 [feet] will be furnished at a flat fee cost [of \$350.00]....Where the

total extension exceeds 500 [feet], the applicant will pay the Company prior to construction the actual cost of [the line extension] exceeding the 500 [feet] plus the flat fee cost.”

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that under the proposed tariff, the applicant will be responsible to provide trenching services.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company is a Title-61 telephone corporation. *See Idaho Code* § 61-121.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Application is available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Commission’s office. These documents are also available on the Commission’s web site at www.puc.idaho.gov. Click on the “TELECOM” icon, select “Open Cases,” and click on the case number as shown on the front of this document.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that all proceedings in this case will be held pursuant to the Commission’s jurisdiction under Title 61 of the Idaho Code.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that all proceedings in this matter will be conducted pursuant to the Commission’s Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01.000 *et seq.*

SUSPENSION OF PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that, given the public interest in having adequate time to comment on this case, the Commission finds it appropriate to suspend the Company’s proposed effective date of June 15, 2021 for 60 days, unless the Commission issues an earlier order accepting, rejecting, or modifying the Company’s Application. *See Idaho Code* § 61-622.

NOTICE OF MODIFIED PROCEDURE

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Commission has determined that the public interest may not require a formal hearing in this matter and will proceed under Modified Procedure pursuant to Rules 201 through 204 of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission’s Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01.201 through .204. The Commission notes that Modified Procedure and written comments have proven to be an effective means for obtaining public input and participation.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that persons desiring to state a position on this Application may file a written comment explaining why the person supports or opposes the Application. Persons who would like a hearing must specifically request a hearing in their written comments. **Persons shall have until July 8, 2021 to file written comments.** Comments must be filed by email unless email is unavailable. To comment by email, please access the Commission’s

home page at www.puc.idaho.gov. Click the “Consumers” tab and then “Case Comment Form” and complete the form using the case number as it appears on the front of this document. Comments filed by email must also be emailed to the Company at the email addresses listed below. If email is unavailable, then comments may be mailed to the Commission and the Company at these addresses:

For the Idaho PUC:

Commission Secretary
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074
secretary@puc.idaho.gov

For Columbine Telephone Company:

Michelle Motzkus
Silver Star Communications
P.O. Box 226
Freedom, WY 83120

Street Address for Express Mail:

11331 W. Chinden Blvd.
Building 8, Suite 201-A
Boise, ID 83714

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company must file any reply comments **by July 15, 2021.**

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that if no written comments or protests are received within the time limit set, the Commission will consider this matter on its merits and enter its Order without a formal hearing. If written comments are received within the time limit set, the Commission will consider them and, in its discretion, may set the same for formal hearing.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Company’s proposed June 15, 2021 effective date is suspended for 60 days, unless the Commission issues an earlier order accepting, rejecting, or modifying the Application. *See Idaho Code § 61-622.*

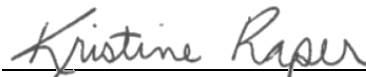
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Company’s Application be processed by Modified Procedure, Rule 201-204 (IDAPA 31.01.01.201-.204). Persons interested in submitting written comments must do so by July 8, 2021. The Company must file any reply comments by July 15, 2021.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that parties should continue to comply with Order No. 35058, issued June 3, 2021. All pleadings should be filed with the Commission electronically and shall be deemed timely filed when received by the Commission Secretary. *See* Rule 14.02. Service between parties should also be accomplished electronically. Voluminous discovery-related documents may be filed and served on CD-ROM or a USB flash drive.

DONE by order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 14th day of June 2021.



PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT

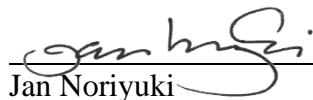


KRISTINE RAPER, COMMISSIONER



ERIC ANDERSON, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Jan Noriyuki
Commission Secretary

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