

Idaho Public Utilities Commission

Case No. CTB-T-14-01, Order No. 32989

March 13, 2014

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Custer Telephone seeks ETC status

BOISE -- The Idaho Public Utilities Commission is taking comment through March 25 on an application by Custer Telephone Broadband Services LLC to be declared an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) in the Salmon area and be allowed to offer "Lifeline" low-income support to its customers.

Custer Telephone Broadband is a subsidiary of Challis-based Custer Telephone Cooperative and since 2011 has provided basic local exchange and long-distance service in the Salmon area. ETC status would permit Custer Telephone Broadband to receive low-income support from the federal Universal Service Fund.

Custer Telephone Broadband says the ETC is in the public interest because it will promote competition in the area and enable it to offer Lifeline to qualifying customers. The Salmon area is also served by CenturyTel of Idaho, doing business as CenturyLink.

Companies seeking ETC status must meet several requirements established by the commission including access to E-911 emergency services, directory service, compliance with consumer protection and service quality standards and provide Lifeline services to qualifying customers.

Lifeline is funded through the federal Universal Service Fund. Customers who qualify for Lifeline may receive a federal discount of \$9.25 per month.

Comments are accepted via e-mail through March 25 by accessing the commission's homepage at www.puc.idaho.gov and clicking on "Case Comment Form," under the "Telecom" heading. Fill in the case number (CTB-T-14-01) and enter your comments. Comments can also be mailed to P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0074 or faxed to (208) 334-3762.

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