

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF BLACKFOOT)	
TELECOMMUNICATIONS GROUP'S)	CASE NO. FRE-T-13-01
APPLICATION TO MODIFY ITS NUMBER)	
RESERVE AND SEASONAL SERVICE)	NOTICE OF APPLICATION
TARIFFS)	
)	NOTICE OF
)	MODIFIED PROCEDURE
)	
)	ORDER NO. 32902

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that Blackfoot Telecommunications Group ("BTG"), since acquiring Fremont Telecom from FairPoint Communications, is updating its tariffs and billing systems while transitioning customers to its upgraded services. The Company filed revised tariffs and seeks Commission approval to eliminate Number Reserve service, clarify its current seasonal service charges, and adjust the residential customer rate to comply with the FCC's rate floor guidelines set forth in FCC 47 C.F.R. § 54.318. The Company is also asking the Commission to approve a \$25.00 non-recurring charge for the second and subsequent activations of seasonal service, a charge to discourage customers from disconnecting and reconnecting service numerous times throughout a calendar year.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that in 1998, Fremont began offering a service called Number Reserve. The rate for this service was 25% of the flat rate service charge or \$6.44 for residential and \$10.20 for business customers. Number Reserve service reserved a customer's telephone number when the customer left the service area for an extended period of time, and disconnected dial tone and all other switch-based services associated with it. BTG discovered that in some instances the Number Reserve service had been incorrectly provisioned as seasonal or vacation service, improperly enabling customers to receive calls and make outbound calls. The Company proposes to discontinue the Number Reserve service and migrate those customers to its Seasonal service. The Company is setting a monthly rate of \$14.00 and \$21.00 for residential and business respectively. The previous residential rate was \$12.90 per month. The proposed monthly residential Seasonal Service rate increase from \$12.90 to \$14.00

is consistent with the FCC's Connect America Fund Order.¹ The monthly business rate of \$21.00 is in compliance with the FCC's Order and will not need to be adjusted. See FCC 47 CFR § 54.318. The Company presented a cost analysis with its filing indicating the rate adjustment will be revenue neutral.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that Blackfoot proposes to implement a \$25.00 fee activating service. Customers placing their service on seasonal status will *not* be charged the \$25.00 non-recurring fee for one activation in a 12-month period. The charge will be assessed when seasonal service is initiated for each subsequent activation during a 12-month period. If the customer changes service to the Company's regular local exchange service, the fee will be waived.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company requests the proposed tariff charges be effective November 1, 2013.

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 any person desiring to state a position on this Application may file a written comment in support or opposition with the Commission within 14 days from the service date of this Notice. The comment must contain a statement of reasons supporting the comment. Persons desiring a hearing must specifically request a hearing in their written comments. Written comments concerning this Application shall be mailed to the Commission and the Applicant at the addresses reflected below:

¹ See *In the Matter of Connect America Fund; A National Broadband Plan for Our Future; Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates for Local Exchange Carriers; High-Cost Universal Service Support; Developing an Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime; Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; Lifeline and Link-Up; Universal Service Reform – Mobility Fund*, WC Docket Nos. 10-92, 07-135, 05-337, 03-109, GN Docket No. 09-51, CC Docket Nos. 01-92, 86-45, WT Docket No. 10-208, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making, FCC 11-161, pp. 234-241 (rel. Nov. 18, 2011)

Commission Secretary
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074

Michelle Norbeck
Fremont Telcom Co.
dba Fremont Communications
1221 N. Russell Street
Missoula, MT 59808

Street Address for Express Mail:

472 W. Washington Street
Boise, ID 83702-5918

These comments should contain the case caption and case number shown on the first page of this document. Persons desiring to submit comments via e-mail may do so by accessing the Commission's home page located at www.puc.idaho.gov. Click the "Case Comment or Question Form" under the "Consumers" tab, and complete the comment form using the case number as it appears on the front of this document.

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.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Application and exhibits have been filed with the Commission and are available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Commission offices. The Application and exhibits are also available on the Commission's web site at www.puc.idaho.gov. Click on the "File Room" tab at the top of the page, scroll down to "Open Telephone Cases," and then click on the case number as shown on the front of this document.

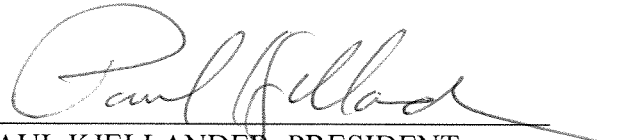
YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that all proceedings in this case will be held pursuant to the Commission's jurisdiction under Title 62 of the Idaho Code and specifically *Idaho Code* § 62-615. The Commission may enter any final Order consistent with its authority under Title 62.

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.*

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this case be processed under Modified Procedure. Interested persons and the parties may file written comments within 14 days of the service date of this Order.

DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 2nd day of October 2013.



PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT



MACK A. REDFORD, COMMISSIONER



MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Jean D. Jewell
Commission Secretary

O:FRE-T-13-01_ws