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IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

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Attorney for the Commission Staff

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
IDT AMERICA, CORP. FOR A CERTIFICATE) CASE NO. GNR-T-03-29
OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY)
TO PROVIDE LOCAL EXCHANGE) COMMENTS OF THE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES.) COMMISSION STAFF
)
)
)

COMES NOW the Staff of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, by and through its Attorney of record, Weldon B. Stutzman, Deputy Attorney General, in response to Order No. 29437, the Notice of Application and Notice of Modified Procedure in Case No. GNR-T-03-29 issued on March 4, 2004, and submits the following comments.

BACKGROUND

On August 25, 2003, IDT America, Corp. filed an Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to provide facilities-based and resold competitive local exchange and interexchange services throughout the State of Idaho. IDT is a wholly owned subsidiary of IDT Domestic Telecom, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of IDT Telecom, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of IDT Corporation, a Delaware corporation that is publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange (IDT, IDT.C). The Company has filed a copy of its Certificate of Authority issued by the Idaho Secretary of State.

STAFF ANALYSIS

Staff has reviewed the information provided by IDT in its application and believes it satisfies the requirements of the Commission's Rule of Procedure 111, IDAPA 31.01.01.111, and Procedural Order No. 26665 issued November 7, 1996, which sets out the necessary information to be included with an application for a certificate.

The application indicated IDT intended to provide basic resold and facilities based local exchange services to both residential and business customers. The Company would initially provide services primarily via the unbundled network element platform (UNE-P). The application indicated the Company's primary market is its existing long distance customer base. The application indicated the Company would initially provide service in the area currently served by Qwest and Verizon.


IDT is a telecommunications company that has been providing long distance services nationwide, including Idaho. The application included financial information about the parent company that indicated the Company was in a relatively strong financial position, considering the downturn in the telecommunications industry. Staff is satisfied that the Company has the technical, managerial and financial strength to provide the services identified in the application.

IDT specifically indicated in its application it will comply with all Commission rules. It has provided an illustrative tariff with its application that demonstrates an understanding of tariff requirements and processes.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to provide competitive local exchange service in Idaho be provided to IDT America, Corp.

Respectfully submitted this 25th day of March 2004.



Weldon B. Stutzman
Deputy Attorney General

Technical Staff: Wayne Hart

WS:umisc/comments/gnrt03.29wswh

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I HAVE THIS 25TH DAY OF MARCH 2004, SERVED THE FOREGOING **COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION STAFF**, IN CASE NO. GNR-T-03-29, BY MAILING A COPY THEREOF, POSTAGE PREPAID, TO THE FOLLOWING:

CARL WOLF BILLEK
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SECRETARY