



IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Dirk Kempthorne, Governor

P.O. Box 83720, Boise, Idaho 83720-0074

To: Mr. and Mrs. Vlado Maras

Paul Kjellander, President
Marsha H. Smith, Commissioner
Dennis S. Hansen, Commissioner

Date: July 26, 2004

From: Doug Cooley - IPUC Staff

Re: Survey Summary of Soldiers Meadow residents - Case No. GNR-T-04-2

Beginning in July 2001, residents in the Idaho communities of Forest and Soldiers Meadow have requested telephone service from Qwest Corporation. Consistent with its line extension tariff, Qwest extended service to customers at Forest that were within its certificated exchange area. Also consistent with its tariff, Qwest was unwilling to extend service beyond its service territory to residents at Soldiers Meadow Reservoir unless all line extension charges were paid by the prospective customers. Thereafter, Ms. Kastner-Maras wrote letters to the Commission in September 2003 and February 2004 asking that the Commission formally investigate the provision of telephone service to the Soldiers Meadow area. In response, the Commission opened Case No. GNR-T-04-2 regarding the possible extension of telephone service to the Soldiers Meadow area of Nez Perce County. In addition, Staff met with the Soldiers Meadow applicants in June 2004 and held a joint conference call with Qwest to discuss the case. Also in June 2004, Staff distributed approximately 50 surveys with postage-paid return envelopes to residents in the Soldiers Meadow area of Nez Perce County. The Commission Staff was interested in measuring the current interest for telephone service in that area.

As of today, 22 surveys were returned, and 19 respondents indicated an interest in acquiring landline telephone service in the Soldiers Meadow area. Seven respondents stated they were year-round residents, 14 indicated vacation cabins, and 1 respondent is currently building a residence. Seventeen surveys indicated a willingness to commit to 2 years of regular phone service. Regarding a willingness to pay for telephone service to be extended to the area, 10 stated an unwillingness to pay by checking the "none" box, 6 indicated willingness to pay between \$100 and \$200, and 6 would pay between \$100 and \$1,000. Twenty-one respondents stated they currently have wireless service, although most stated that their wireless service was not always adequate for their calling needs. Mrs. Maras has indicated that approximately 6 more surveys would be returned soon.

cc Commissioners Kjellander, Smith, Hansen
Qwest Corporation
Weldon Stutzman - Deputy Attorney General

u:dc recent survey summary