

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF POTLATCH)	
TELEPHONE COMPANY DBA TDS)	CASE NO. POT-T-14-01
TELECOM'S 2013 BROADBAND EQUIPMENT)	
TAX CREDIT APPLICATION.)	ORDER NO. 32978

On January 30, 2014, Potlatch Telephone Company dba TDS Telecom applied to the Commission for an Order confirming that equipment it installed in 2013 is “qualified broadband equipment” under *Idaho Code* § 63-3029I (income tax credit for investment in broadband equipment). With this Order, we confirm that the installed equipment is “qualified broadband equipment” under *Idaho Code* § 63-3029I.

THE APPLICATION

In its Application, the Company says it invested \$141,517.10 in qualifying broadband equipment in 2013. The Company says it provides broadband telecommunications services in the areas of Juliaetta, Kendrick, and Potlatch, Idaho, and it listed investments in equipment associated with Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) services. The Company says its broadband network can transmit signals at a rate of up to 25 megabits per second (i.e., 25,000,000 bits per second (“bps”)) and can serve about 81% of its Idaho customers. *See* Application.

STAFF REVIEW

In July 2001, the Commission issued Procedural Order No. 28784 to implement its responsibilities under *Idaho Code* § 63-3029I. That Order identifies information that must be included in a broadband tax credit application. When a company files an application, the Commission Staff reviews it to determine whether the listed equipment meets the statutory definition of “qualified broadband equipment.” Staff then submits a recommendation to the Commission.

Here, Staff reviewed the Company’s Application to determine whether the listed equipment is “qualified broadband equipment” under *Idaho Code* § 63-3029I. That statute defines “qualified broadband equipment” as equipment that qualifies for the *Idaho Code* § 63-3029B capital investment credit that “is capable of transmitting signals at a rate of at least [200,000 bps] to a subscriber and at least [125,000 bps] from a subscriber.” *Idaho Code* § 63-3029I(3)(b). Further, in “the case of a telecommunications carrier, such qualifying equipment

shall be necessary to the provision of broadband service and an integral part of a broadband network.” *Idaho Code* § 63-3029I(3)(b)(i).

Based on its review, Staff believes the Company is a telecommunications carrier and the listed equipment meets the above-described statutory criteria and is “qualified broadband equipment” that is eligible for the tax credit. Staff thus recommended that the Commission: (1) issue an Order confirming that the Company’s equipment is “qualified broadband equipment,” and (2) forward copies of the Application and Order to the Idaho State Tax Commission.

COMMISSION FINDINGS

Having reviewed the Company’s Application and Staff’s recommendation, we find the Company’s equipment is “qualified broadband equipment” subject to the tax credit under *Idaho Code* § 63-3029I. The Company is a telecommunications carrier. Further, the listed equipment (as presently configured) is an integral part of the Company’s broadband network and is necessary to the provision of broadband service to Idaho customers. It is thus appropriate for the Commission to issue an Order confirming that the Company’s equipment is “qualified broadband equipment.” The Commission makes no findings regarding the costs of the installed broadband equipment or other expenses.

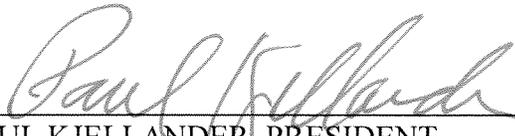
ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Company’s Application for an Order confirming that equipment it installed in 2013 is “qualified broadband equipment” is granted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this Order and a copy of the Application be served on the Idaho State Tax Commission.

THIS IS A FINAL ORDER. Any person interested in this Order (or in issues finally decided by this Order) may petition for reconsideration within twenty-one (21) days of the service date of this Order with regard to any matter decided in this Order. Within seven (7) days after any person has petitioned for reconsideration, any other person may cross-petition for reconsideration. *See Idaho Code* §§ 61-626 and 62-619.

DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 20th
day of February 2014.



PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT



MACK A. REDFORD, COMMISSIONER



MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Jean D. Jewell
Commission Secretary

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