

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

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IN THE MATTER OF AN ADVANCED)	DOCKET NO. 89M-083T
NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING)	
CONCERNING THE DETERMINATION)	ORDER ESTABLISHING
OF LOCAL CALLING AREAS.)	INDUSTRY WORKING COMMITTEE
)	TO PREPARE PROPOSED RULE

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Mailed Date: September 24, 1993
Adopted Date: September 22, 1993
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BY THE COMMISSION:

In Investigation and Suspension Docket No. 1766 concerning the establishment of local calling areas for U S WEST Communications, Inc. ("U S WEST"), the Commission set guidelines for the determination of "communities of interest" relevant to local calling areas.¹ The Commission also ordered the creation of a Commission staff local calling area task force to review the existing calling areas every two years. This task force has periodically met and provided information to the Commission under this Docket No. 89M-083T, which also has been the repository for all consumer input regarding local calling areas.

After implementation of the Commission decision in the U S WEST local calling area docket, the non-U S WEST local telephone companies ("independent companies") prepared similar local calling area expansions using the same guidelines applicable to U S WEST. During the past several years, the calling areas of U S WEST have been reviewed on odd-numbered years, and those of the independent companies on the even-numbered years.

¹ See Decisions No. C89-178, No. C89-405, and No. C89-892.

During preparation for this year's review, the staff of the Commission received varying input from the public regarding local calling areas. A majority of consumer input advocates the expansion of local calling areas much beyond limits established using the current criteria. Some consumer input urges the Commission to lower cost by reducing local calling areas. Evaluation of criteria used by other states indicates additional criteria may be necessary for an effective study of local calling areas.

The staff of the Commission has suggested that the Commission open a rulemaking proceeding to review existing criteria as well as to consider new criteria necessary for local calling area determinations. To this end, the Commission is issuing this decision to establish an Industry Working Committee to allow interested parties to contribute to the process of constructing a proposed rule on local calling area determination.²

The Commission invites anyone wishing to participate in the development of the proposed criteria to write to: Bruce N. Smith, Director, Colorado Public Utilities Commission, 1580 Logan Street OL2, Denver, Colorado 80203. Please state the intent to participate and the extent of such participation by October 15, 1993. The Commission will notify each participant of a series of group meetings to prepare a proposed rule in late October and early November 1993. A proposed rule should be ready to present to the Commission by mid-November. After the group presents a proposed rule to the Commission, the Commission will then consider whether to pursue formal rulemaking. If the Commission concludes that it will pursue formal rulemaking, it will issue a formal Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in a new rulemaking docket. Any person may thereafter submit comments regarding the

² Although the Commission values input regarding specific calling areas, e.g., Central City to Denver, this proceeding is intended solely for the development and refinement of general criteria and standards for expenses. The Commission will address the specific needs of specific localities after a rule has been adopted by the Commission in a formal rule-making proceeding.

proposed rules in the rulemaking docket. A schedule of hearings will be established for the proposed rule in the formal Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. The Commission also expects to hold public hearings at various locations around the State to receive public comment about the proposed local calling area rule. The date, time, and place of these various hearings will also be stated in the formal Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

This Order is effective on its Mailed Date.

ADOPTED IN OPEN MEETING September 22, 1993.

(SEAL)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Bruce N. Smith
Bruce N. Smith
Executive Secretary

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

ROBERT E. TEMMER

VINCENT MAJKOWSKI

Commissioners

COMMISSIONER CHRISTINE E. M.
ALVAREZ ABSENT BUT CONCURRING.