

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

DOCKET NO. 03M-509T

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST OF THE AT&T COMMUNICATIONS OF THE
MOUNTAIN STATES, INC. FOR COMMISSION APPROVAL OF AN OPERATIONAL TEST.

**DECISION GRANTING APPLICATION
FOR EXTENSION OF VARIANCE**

Mailed Date: May 6, 2004
Adopted Date: May 5, 2004

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement

1. This matter comes before the Commission for consideration of AT&T Communications of the Mountain States, Inc.'s (AT&T) request filed on April 22, 2004 for approval of an extension of a variance granted by the Commission in Decision No. C03-1365 related to an operational test to offer residential local telephone service. AT&T is requesting an extension of the Commission variance from May 11, 2004 until December 31, 2004.

2. AT&T indicates that it requires additional alterations of its systems and billing processes in order for it to meet the Commission's rules.

3. The Commission will treat AT&T's request as a motion for variance of our telecommunications rules related to the offering of telecommunications services.

4. We encourage alternative market entry strategies for competitors in the telecommunications market. The Colorado Legislature has directed this Commission to encourage competition and AT&T's request to conduct a market trial may increase the level of

competition to the benefit of consumers. Therefore, we grant AT&T's request for an extension of the temporary variance granted in Decision No. C03-1365 until December 31, 2004 to modify its systems in order to become compliant with Commission rules.

II. ORDER

A. The Commission Orders That:

1. The Commission will waive the response time to AT&T Communications of the Mountain States, Inc.'s motion.

2. AT&T Communications of the Mountain States, Inc.'s request for an extension of the variance of the Commission's telecommunication rules for the purpose of modifying its systems related to conducting a market trial is granted. The variance shall continue until December 31, 2004.

3. This Order is effective on its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
May 5, 2004.**

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

Commissioners

COMMISSIONER JIM DYER ABSENT.