

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON  
STAFF REPORT  
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: July 15, 2003**

**REGULAR**   **CONSENT**   **X**   **EFFECTIVE DATE**   \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:**          June 27, 2003

**TO:**             Roy Hemingway, Chair  
                     Lee Beyer, Commissioner

**Through:**      Rick Willis, Executive Director  
                     Victoria McLean, Central Services Administrator

**FROM:**         Damara Paris, RSPF Manager

**SUBJECT:**      TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVICES ACCESS PROGRAM (TDAP):  
                     Commission Approval of TDAP Advisory Committee Candidates.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that Elizabeth McNeffe be approved to fill the vacant position for a mobility impaired community member on the Telecommunication Devices Access Program Advisory Committee (TDAPAC), and that the term of Bill Drobkiewicz, deaf community representative, be renewed for four more years. As she is a new candidate, I have attached a letter of interest, and background information on Ms. McNeffe.

**DISCUSSION:**

Under Oregon Law, the Commission must have the TDAPAC in place to provide advice for PUC's Telecommunication Devices Access Program (TDAP). TDAP, also authorized by state law, purchases and loans special telecommunication devices at no cost to Oregonians who are deaf, hearing and/or speech impaired, or have other severe physical and mobility impairments that would prevent them from using a standard telephone.

Chapter 290, Oregon Laws 1987, section 2(1-2d) stipulates that the advisory committee consists of twelve members, including nine consumers with disabilities, one professional in the field of hearing or speech impairment or deafness, one representative from telephone companies and one representative from PUC.

On December 8, 2002, members of the TDAPAC voted to recommend Elizabeth McNeffe as a candidate for the TDAPAC, pending approval of the Commissioners. Ms. McNeffe has an upper limb mobility impairment that prevents her from using a standard phone. In addition to being knowledgeable about her own disability, she is a research scientist at the Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) Center on Self-Determination. Her research encompasses abuse and oppression of people with disabilities, and considers communication access a variable in reducing susceptibility and vulnerability to abuse. Her education includes a Masters in Public Administration and Policy Analysis and Health Administration, and she is currently a doctoral student at Portland State University. If Ms. McNeffe's term is approved, she would begin as a council member immediately until December 31, 2006.

Bill Drobkiewicz has been a TDAPAC member since 1998. He served in 2001 as the Chair of TDAPAC and 2002 to present as the Vice-Chair. Mr. Drobkiewicz brings insight to the council on issues pertinent to deaf and hard of hearing individuals in the Southern Oregon region, where resources are often harder to access than in Oregon's Mid-Valley and Portland areas. TDAPAC members voted to recommend another term of four years for Mr. Drobkiewicz. If approved, his term would begin immediately and expire December 31, 2006.

**PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:**

Appoint Ms. McNeffe and Mr. Drobkiewicz as TDAPAC members, beginning July 15, 2003 and ending December 31, 2006.