

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: August 17, 2004**

REGULAR **CONSENT** **EFFECTIVE DATE** August 18, 2004

DATE: August 3, 2004

TO: Lee Sparling through Phil Nyegaard and Cynthia Van Landuyt

FROM: Suzanne Smith

SUBJECT: MALHEUR HOME TELEPHONE COMPANY: (Advice No. 2004-07-T)
Restructures the Expedited Order Charge to afford customers a simpler method to expedite orders and calculate the cost of the expedite.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Commission allow the filing to go into effect August 18, 2004.

DISCUSSION:

On July 16, 2004, Malheur Home Telephone Company (Malheur) filed Advice No. 2004-07-T PUC OR No. 4-AC to be effective July 31, 2004. Since the filing was submitted without the Less than Statutory Notice (LSN) form, staff requested Malheur change the effective date to August 18, 2004, to meet this requirement.

The filing was made under ORS 759.175, *Filing rate schedules and data with commission*. In the filing, the Company proposes a restructuring of the Expedited Order Charge, which is assessed when a customer requests a service date prior to the standard interval service date or when a customer requests an earlier service date on a pending standard or negotiated interval order.

The company proposes this change in response to requests from customers which would allow them a simpler method to expedite their service orders and calculate the cost of that expedite on a daily basis. The current tariff does not allow the customer to easily calculate expedite charges. With this proposed change, customers will now be able to determine the cost per day of an expedited order.

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The restructuring removes some redundancies but does not substantially change the rates, terms, or conditions of service for the services in this tariff. Malheur Home Telephone estimates a zero (0) revenue impact with this filing.

In accordance with ORS 759.185 *Suspension of rates pending hearing; time limitations; revenue collected subject to refund; interim rates*, the Commission could suspend this filing for further investigation. After review, staff finds the proposed changes are in the public interest and recommends the Commission accept Malheur's filing.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Malheur Home Telephone Company's Advice No. 2004-07-T, which restructures the Expedited Order Charge, be allowed to go into effect August 18, 2004.