

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON  
STAFF REPORT  
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: April 25, 2006**

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

**DATE:** April 12, 2006

**TO:** Public Utility Commission

**FROM:** Damara Paris

**THROUGH:** Rick Willis and Victoria McLean

**SUBJECT:** Residential Service Protection Fund (RSPF): Commission Approval of TDAP Advisory Committee Member and OTRS Industry Group Members

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that Georgia Ortiz be approved as a deaf representative on the Telecommunications Devices Access Program Advisory Council until December 31, 2009. Staff also recommends that Becky Sandercock, from Sprint, and Renee Willer, from Verizon, be approved as members of the OTRS Industry Advisory Group. No term limitations are imposed on OTRS Industry Advisory Group members.

**DISCUSSION:**

Under Oregon Law, TDAPAC advises the PUC's Telecommunication Devices Access Program (TDAP) on issues pertaining to telecommunication assistance for disabled or low income Oregonians. TDAP 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.

Georgia Ortiz is a logical choice to represent the Portland Deaf Community on the TDAPAC. Ms. Ortiz comes from an employment background that includes counseling, administration at a school for the deaf, and most recently the State-wide coordinator of the Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (ODHHS). As a late-deafened

individual who is sign fluent, she offers valuable input from a personal and professional perspective. In December 2005, the TDAPAC members voted Ms. Ortiz as a candidate for the TDAPAC.

The OTRS Industry Advisory Group was established in 1995 to gather input from the telecommunications industry on the Oregon Telecommunications Relay Services and the Oregon Telephone Assistance Program. The TDAPAC and the OTRS Industry Advisory Group meet quarterly at different times.

Becky Sandercock and Renee Willer have both worked in the telecommunications industry for more than 20 years. Ms. Sandercock recently replaced Glenn Harris, who was on the OTRS Industry Advisory Group prior to his recent retirement. Ms. Willer has been a frequent attendee of PUC public meetings, representing Verizon's tariffs and other relevant telecommunications issues. Both individuals will represent the industry perspective well on the OTRS Industry Advisory Group. In December 2005, current OTRS Industry Advisory Group members approved the candidacy of Ms. Sandercock and Ms. Willer.

**PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:**

Appoint Georgia Ortiz as a member of the TDAP Advisory Committee (TDAPAC) with her term expiring on December 31, 2009, and Becky Sandercock and Renee Willer as members of the OTRS Industry Advisory Group.