

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON  
STAFF REPORT  
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: July 24, 2007

REGULAR  X  CONSENT \_\_\_\_\_ EFFECTIVE DATE  July 24, 2007

DATE: July 16, 2007

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Dave Booth

THROUGH: Lee Sparling

SUBJECT: OREGON UNIVERSAL SERVICE (OUS) ADVISORY BOARD: Approval of candidates for OUS Advisory Board positions.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

The Commission should appoint John Dillard, President of Monroe Telephone Company; and Mike Tylka, General Manager of Eastern Oregon Telecom, LLC, to fill open positions on the Oregon Universal Service (OUS) Advisory Board, effective immediately. Terms of office for these appointments will end December 31, 2008.

**DISCUSSION:**

In docket UM 731, the Commission established an OUS Advisory Board (Board) consisting of ten members. See Order No. 99-197. One member is from the Commission's staff. The other nine members are as follows:

- Three from telecommunications utilities;
- Three from competitive telecommunications providers;
- One from radio common carriers;
- One from a consumer group representing residential customers; and
- One from among business customers.

The Commission established the following functions for the Board:

- Assist and advise the Commission in the selection of the OUS Administrator;
- Advise the Administrator and Commission regarding the effective operation of the OUS Fund;

- Assist the Administrator in reviewing and identifying irregularities in information provided on OUS worksheets;
- Provide an interface between the Administrator and telecommunications providers to resolve problems or disputes and to recommend appropriate actions; and
- Assist the Commission in evaluating the success of the OUS program.

Membership on the Board is limited to three consecutive years by any member representing a particular company. Members may seek reappointment to additional terms. The terms are staggered so that no more than one-third of the members will be new in any one year. The Commission's staff membership is permanent. Information about current Board members and their terms of office is available on the Commission's web site.

One of three positions representing telecommunications utilities is currently open following the resignation of Karen Ellison, Midvale Telephone Exchange, Inc. In addition, one of three positions representing competitive telecommunications providers is currently open following the resignation of Brian Thomas, Time Warner Telecom of Oregon, LLC. The terms of the office for both open positions expire December 31, 2008.

On May 2, 2007, staff mailed a letter seeking nominations. Staff provided a nomination form, and set a filing deadline of June 1, 2007. Staff also established a committee to review the nominations and make recommendations for the Commission's consideration. Members of the selection committee are Rick Willis, Mike Grant, and David Poston. The committee met on July 9, 2007, to consider the nominations.

The Commission received one nomination to fill the open utility position. The nominee is John Dillard, President of Monroe Telephone Company. The selection committee recommends the Commission appoint John Dillard to fill this position on the OUS Advisory Board. Mr. Dillard is well qualified. Brant Wolf, Executive Vice President of the Oregon Telephone Association, nominated Mr. Dillard. Mr. Wolf stated in his nomination, "Mr. Dillard has spent his entire professional life in the telecommunications business and is eminently qualified to represent the interests of small telecommunications companies."

The Commission received three nominations to fill the open competitive provider position. The nominees are:

Ilya Belov, Vice President, Network Development, Master Call Communications, Inc.

Jeff Crews, Chief Technology Officer, PriorityOne Telecommunications, Inc.

Mike Tylka, General Manager, Eastern Oregon Telecom, LLC

The selection committee recommends the Commission appoint Mike Tylka. This was a difficult decision since all of the nominees are well qualified. Mr. Tylka's nomination materials stood out as the most complete and informative of the three. Mr. Tylka showed that he has extensive experience in the telecommunications industry and that he has a history of participation in various boards and committees. His industry and record of volunteer participation suggests that he is likely to make an effective contribution to OUS Advisory Board deliberations.

**PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:**

John Dillard, President of Monroe Telephone Company, be appointed to the OUS Advisory Board representing telecommunications utilities, and Mike Tylka, General Manager of Eastern Oregon Telecom, LLC be appointed to the OUS Advisory Board representing competitive telecommunications providers, effective immediately, with terms of office ending December 31, 2008.