

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: March 24, 2009**

REGULAR CONSENT EFFECTIVE DATE March 24, 2009

DATE: March 10, 2009

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Jon Cray

THROUGH: Rick Willis and David Poston

SUBJECT: RESIDENTIAL SERVICE PROTECTION FUND (RSPF): Commission Approval of Telecommunication Devices Access Program (TDAP) Advisory Committee Members and Oregon Telecommunications Relay Service (OTRS) Industry Advisory Committee Members.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that Renwick Dayton and Ishai Rosen be approved as deaf representatives on the TDAP Advisory Committee until December 31, 2011. Staff also recommends that Mary Gumm, from Embarq, and Mark Reynolds, from Qwest, be approved as members of the OTRS Advisory Committee. Term limitations are not imposed on OTRS Industry Advisory Committee members.

DISCUSSION:

Pursuant to Chapter 290, Oregon Laws 1987, Sections 9 to 16, the TDAP Advisory Committee advises the Commission concerning matters of general development, implementation and administration. The Commission purchases and loans specialized telecommunications equipment at no cost to Oregonians, who are severely hearing and/or speech impaired, or have other physical conditions that require adaptive devices to use the telephone.

Chapter 290, Oregon Laws 1987, Section 12 stipulates that the TDAP Advisory Committee consist of twelve members, including nine consumers with disabilities, one professional in the field of hearing or speech impairment or deafness, one representative from the telephone companies and one representative from the Commission.

The Commission established the OTRS Industry Advisory Committee in 1995 by Order 95-087 consisting of representatives from the telecommunications industry. The purpose of the committee is to address issues relating to the quality and cost of the OTRS. The committee facilitates the exchange of information among providers and users of the OTRS with Commission staff. It also focuses on operational issues and pursues ways to make the OTRS as cost-effective as possible. It seeks ways to ensure a high quality of service while minimizing costs. The TDAP Advisory Committee and the OTRS Industry Advisory Committee meet quarterly at different times.

On Monday, March 2, 2009, the TDAP Advisory Committee members voted Renwick Dayton and Ishai Rosen to continue their second term as representatives of the deaf community. Mr. Dayton maintains his proactive role in the deaf community by serving as the current Vice President of the Oregon Association of the Deaf. He is also a member of the Deaf Seniors of America and the National Association of the Deaf. Mr. Rosen possesses extensive knowledge of adaptive telecommunications equipment from a personal and professional perspective. He contributes to his essential role as an advisory committee member by making the Commission aware of current and available technology for disabled consumers. Both individuals' diverse experiences will help the Commission continue its commitment in providing all our customers independent and successful access to the rapidly evolving telecommunications industry.

Mary Gumm has 18 years of experience in the telecommunications industry including regulatory affairs management, business sales, training and marketing. She recently replaced Becky Sandercock, who was on the OTRS Industry Advisory Committee since 2004. As the Embarq Public Affairs Manager, Ms. Gumm will offer her experience in regulatory communications for services including the federal Lifeline low-income assistance program. Mark Reynolds recently assumed the responsibility for Qwest's regulatory affairs in Oregon. His background includes management of regulatory affairs for the State of Washington and various director positions in service costs, economic analysis, pricing, planning and interconnection. Both individuals will support the Commission in its goals to provide high quality service while minimizing costs. On Tuesday, March 10, 2009 current members of the OTRS Industry Advisory Committee approved the candidacy of Ms. Gumm and Mr. Reynolds.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

I move that the Commission approve Renwick Dayton and Ishai Rosen as deaf representatives of the TDAP Advisory Committee with their terms expiring on December 31, 2011. Additionally, I move the Commission to approve Mary Gumm and Mark Reynolds as members of the OTRS Industry Advisory Committee with no term restrictions.