

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COMMISSION ADVISORY AND COMPLIANCE DIVISION
Telecommunications Branch

RESOLUTION NO. T-13009
August 10, 1988

R E S O L U T I O N

THE SISKIYOU TELEPHONE COMPANY. ORDER AUTHORIZING THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SAWYERS BAR - FORKS OF SALMON
EXCHANGE.

SUMMARY

This resolution authorizes The Siskiyou Telephone Company to establish the new Sawyers Bar - Forks of Salmon exchange. The present 32 residential customers and 11 business customers from the Sawyers Bar and Forks of Salmon areas will have their service upgraded from guarantee toll station to one-party exchange service. The monthly rate for this upgrade will be \$15.00 for residence and \$25.00 for business. The new rate will take effect upon the December in-service date of the new exchange central office. Application of the new rates will result in an aggregate annual billing increase of \$9,060.

BACKGROUND

The Siskiyou Telephone Company serves and has served the Salmon River area since 1896. This area is about 60 miles southeast of Crescent City. It includes the small unincorporated communities of Sawyers Bar and Forks of Salmon. Almost 99 percent of this 643 square mile area is under the jurisdiction and management of the U. S. Forest Service.

The Salmon River area's economy is based upon timber, associated logging, trucking, mining, and seasonal recreation. As a result of the devastating forest fires which occurred in the fall of 1987, an increase in logging operations, tree planting, and U. S. Forest Service personnel, is expected. Siskiyou anticipates the increased demand for telephone service could last from three to five years.

At the present time, the 43 subscribers in Sawyers Bar and Forks of Salmon have ten party toll station service.

The Siskiyou Telephone Company, by Advice Letter No. 156, filed July 21, 1988, requests authority under Section 454 of the Public Utilities Code to establish the new Sawyers Bar - Forks of Salmon exchange with a new exchange rate schedule applicable thereto and the discontinuance of Schedule B-2 Guarantee Toll Station Service.

DISCUSSION

Siskiyou's proposal to establish the new Sawyers Bar - Forks of Salmon exchange will eliminate the existing Guarantee Toll Station service to customers in this area. Currently, Siskiyou operates a microwave system from Fort Jones toll center into Sawyers Bar. All calls to and from this area are toll calls and operator assistance is required to interconnect subscribers. The guaranteed toll rate is \$12.50 per month. If a customer's toll charges were less than the guaranteed amount in any given month, he/she is required to make up the deficit.

Siskiyou's estimated equipment and construction costs for this new exchange are \$260,822 in addition to a present investment of \$515,400. Total investment will be \$776,222.

The new digital exchange will replace the multi-party service with one-party service. Customers will have touch tone capability and unlimited local calling within the exchange. All calls will be direct dialable without operator assistance. Customers will also be able to subscribe to custom calling features such as call waiting and call forwarding. This proposal will also make available Universal Lifeline Telephone Service (ULTS) to those customers who meet the eligibility requirements. Qualified customers for ULTS will be offered basic flat rate service at a discount. Siskiyou estimates that about 30 percent of the residential customers will qualify.

A notice has been mailed to all existing customers informing them of the proposal to form an exchange and of the proposed rates. This notice was mailed on April 27, 1988 with a comment period ending June 1, 1988. To date no opposition to this proposal has been received.

In order to meet the December 1, 1988 in-service date, Siskiyou needs the Commission's approval to begin construction now. There is a short time frame for construction due to the mountainous terrain and snow pack in this area. Lead time is also required for central office equipment acquisition. Pacific Bell, NECA, and Nationwide Dialing Plan require notification to open up the 462 NXX office code.

FINDINGS

1. Siskiyou's proposed new exchange will provide individual flat rate exchange service to its customers. It will permit unlimited local calling within the Sawyers Bar, Forks of Salmon areas. Custom calling features will also be available.
2. This filing will permit the 32 residential customers to be eligible for Universal Lifeline Telephone Service for the first time. It is estimated that about 30 percent will qualify.
3. The 43 customers were notified of the proposed change by letter on April 27, 1988. To date no complaints have been received.

IT IS ORDERED that:

- (1) Siskiyou is granted the authority to begin construction on the new Sawyers Bar - Forks of Salmon exchange as of August 10, 1988 and to make the tariff revisions as filed in Advice Letter No. 156 effective December 1, 1988.
- (2) Siskiyou's Preliminary Statement, Map of Service Area, Schedule A-1, Schedule A-8, Schedule A-23, Schedule B-2, Schedule B-3, and Rule No. 2 shall be marked to show that such sheets were authorized by Resolution of the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California No. T-13009.
- (3) The effective date of this resolution is today.

I certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its regular meeting on August 10, 1988. The following Commissioners approved it:

STANLEY W. HULETT
President

DONALD VIAL
FREDERICK R. DUDA
G. MITCHELL WILK
JOHN B. OHANIAN
Commissioners


Executive Director