

Service Date: January 26, 2000

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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IN THE MATTER OF a Tariff Filing)	UTILITY DIVISION
By Ronan Telephone Company Containing the)	
Rates, Terms and Conditions for Reciprocal)	DOCKET NO. D2000.1.14
Compensation Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 251(b)(5))	
and § 69-3-834(2)(b), MCA)	ORDER NO. 6225

ORDER DIRECTING TARIFF FILING

Introduction and Background

On April 28, 1999 Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (Blackfoot) and Montana Wireless, Inc. (MWI) filed petitions for arbitration of a reciprocal compensation arrangement with Ronan Telephone Company (Ronan). See Docket Nos. D99.4.112 and D99.4.113. The arbitrations were suspended pending the disposal of a petition filed by Ronan pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 251(f)(2). See Docket No. D99.4.111. On December 22, 1999 the Montana Public Service Commission (Commission) issued Procedural Order Nos. 6218 and 6219, directing that the arbitrations proceed. On that same date Ronan filed a Motion to Dismiss the arbitrations, which the Commission has granted. See Order Nos. 6218a and 6219a, Docket Nos. D99.4.112 and D99.4.113, January 25, 2000.

Discussion

Although the Commission granted Ronan's Motion to Dismiss the arbitrations, see the discussion at Order Nos. 6219a and 6219b, Ronan continues to have a duty under Montana and federal law to establish reciprocal compensation arrangements for those carriers that request them. 47 U.S.C. § 251(b)(5); § 69-3-834(2)(b), MCA; Commission Order Nos. 6219a and 6219b, Conclusions of Law, ¶ 5. Ronan acknowledges this duty. Ronan Motion to Dismiss, Docket Nos. D99.4.112 and D99.4.113, p. 4, fn. 3, December 22, 1999. Blackfoot and MWI, by their requests for negotiation and arbitration, have indicated a desire for a reciprocal compensation arrangement with Ronan, an arrangement they are entitled to by law. Therefore, the Commission will direct that Ronan file a tariff, providing the details of a reciprocal compensation arrangement that will be available to interconnecting carriers desiring such an arrangement.

Conclusions of Law

1. Ronan Telephone Company is a public utility subject to the jurisdiction of the Montana Public Service Commission. §§ 69-3-101(f) and 69-3-102, MCA.
2. Ronan Telephone Company has a duty to establish reciprocal compensation arrangements with telecommunications carriers who request them. 47 U.S.C. § 251(b)(5); § 69-3-834(2)(b), MCA.

Order

Ronan Telephone Company is directed to file a tariff, by February 8, 2000, containing the rates, terms and conditions that will apply to reciprocal compensation arrangements with requesting telecommunications carriers. In preparing the tariff Ronan must be guided by and comply with the rules of the Federal Communications Commission on reciprocal compensation, 47 C.F.R. §§ 51.701-51.717.

DONE AND DATED this 25th day of January, 2000, by a vote of 5 to 0.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

DAVE FISHER, Chair

NANCY MCCAFFREE, Vice Chair

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

GARY FELAND, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: Any interested party may request the Commission to reconsider this decision. A motion to reconsider must be filed within ten (10) days. See 38.2.4806, ARM.