

Service Date: October 31, 2002

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

RONAN TELEPHONE COMPANY,)	UTILITY DIVISION
)	
Complainant,)	DOCKET NO. D2000.5.63
)	
v.)	ORDER NO. 6404c
)	
BLACKFOOT TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE,)	
INC., BTC HOLDINGS, INC., CLARK FORK)	
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC., MONTANA)	
WIRELESS, INC., BLACKFOOT TEL-COM,)	
INC., and BLACKFOOT FIBER SYSTEMS, INC.,)	
)	
Respondents.)	
)	
IN THE MATTER OF a Tariff Filing by)	
Ronan Telephone Company Containing the)	UTILITY DIVISION
Rates, Terms and Conditions for Reciprocal)	
Compensation Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 251(b)(5))	DOCKET NO. D2000.1.14
and § 69-3-834(2)(b), MCA.)	
)	ORDER NO. 6225h

ORDER CONDITIONALLY APPROVING SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

On October 29, 2002, at a regularly scheduled work session, the Montana Public Service Commission acted on the settlement agreement that was filed for Commission approval in the above captioned dockets.

The settlement agreement filed by Ronan Telephone Company and Blackfoot Telephone, which resolves the outstanding issues in PSC Dockets D2000.1.14 and D2000.5.63, is approved subject to the following conditions:

1. Subsequent approval, after notice and an opportunity to comment period is provided, of a compliance tariff, which shall be filed by the parties and shall incorporate the terms of the settlement agreement; and

2. The parties may not by contract agree to circumvent applicable laws and regulations. Any governing statute, administrative rule or PSC Order will control the issues presented in this settlement agreement.

3. The PSC does not by approving this settlement agreement authorize or approve of any waiver of legal rights and obligations. This Order conditionally approving the settlement agreement closes D2000.1.14 and D2000.5.63. The parties are not precluded from raising the issues presented in D2000.5.63, originally D2000.2.27 Second Cause of Action, before the Commission in a separate proceeding.

4. Upon filing by Ronan of a compliance tariff that incorporates the terms of the July 12, 2002 settlement agreement, the compliance tariff will be noticed for comment. The conditional approval herein will not be made final until and unless the Commission issues its approval of the compliance tariff after considering any comments received in response to the notice.

DONE AND DATED this 29th day of October, 2002, by a vote of 4 to 0.

DOCKET NO. D2000.5.63, ORDER NO. 6404c
DOCKET NO. D2000.1.14, ORDER NO. 6225g
BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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GARY FELAND, Chairman

JAY STOVALL, Vice Chairman

MATT BRAINARD, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Rhonda J. Simmons
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 ARM 38.2.4806.