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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON

UT 132

In the Matter of an Investigation of Telephone
Dialing Parity in Oregon.

)
) ORDER

DISPOSITION: INVESTIGATION INTO TELEPHONE DIALING PARITY IS OPENED

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Act) imposes on any provider of telecommunications service the duty to provide "dialing parity to competing providers of telephone exchange service on telephone toll service." Section 251(b)(3) of the Act.

Prior Commission orders have addressed this issue. Order No. 88-666, Docket

No. UT 52, rejected intraLATA presubscription, which is one component of dialing parity. Order No. 94-336, Docket UT 113, granted GTE Northwest responsibility for default carriage of all intraLATA toll from all its exchanges.

On May 29, 1996, GTE Northwest filed Advice No. 578, to be effective July 17, 1996, to authorize intraLATA equal access in all of its central offices. Because GTE's proposal implicates the duty for dialing parity under the Act, is inconsistent with the Commission's prior orders, and raises questions regarding implementation of dialing parity in Oregon, we suspended the Advice at our July 16, 1996, public meeting. Our decision was memorialized in Order No. 96-184.

We believe that this issue should be addressed on a generic basis. Our policy decisions on dialing parity will affect other local exchange carriers in addition to GTE. As a result, all local exchange carriers shall be included as parties to this proceeding.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that, pursuant to ORS 756.515, an investigation is opened into telephone dialing parity in Oregon.

Made, entered, and effective _____.

Roger Hamilton

Chairman

Ron Eachus

Commissioner

Joan H. Smith

Commissioner

A party may request rehearing or reconsideration of this order pursuant to ORS 756.561. A request for rehearing or reconsideration must be filed with the Commission within 60 days of the date of service of this order. The request must comply with the requirements in OAR

860-014-0095. A copy of any such request must also be served on each party to the proceeding as provided by OAR 860-013-0070(2)(a). A party may appeal this order to a court pursuant to ORS 756.580.