

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	DOCKET UT-060762
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,)	
)	ORDER 07
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	
)	
WESTGATE COMMUNICATIONS,)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
LLC dba WEAVTEL)	SUSPENDING PROPOSED
)	INCREASE TO WCAP REVENUE
Respondent.)	OBJECTIVE
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On February 20, 2014, Westgate Communications, LLC dba WeavTel (WeavTel or Company), filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a request to increase its permanent revenue objective under the Washington Exchange Carrier Association (WECA) Washington Carrier Access Plan (WCAP) to \$226,000. WeavTel’s current revenue objective, originally set in 2009 and reaffirmed in 2010, is \$38,623.
- 2 WeavTel currently provides local exchange telecommunications services to 45 customers in Stehekin, Washington. The Company relies on federal universal service support to provide affordable telephone services in this remote location. Due to unforeseen reductions in intrastate access revenues by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the Company seeks to increase its WCAP revenue objective in order to continue providing basic telephone and E911 services to the community at the northern tip of Lake Chelan.
- 3 Commission Staff has reviewed WeavTel’s filing and raises concerns with the Company’s asserted need for a higher intrastate rate of return and the appropriate level of corporate operations expenses as well as WECA’s ability to generate additional funds. Commission Staff acknowledges that in late 2011, the FCC initiated a significant reform effort that altered the availability of federal universal service funding to Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (ETCs) such as WeavTel. Therefore, Staff suggests further analysis as the prudent course of action.

4 Staff recommends that the Commission issue a complaint and order suspending the
Company's proposed increase to its WCAP revenue objective and setting the matter for
hearing.

DISCUSSION

5 WeavTel has not yet demonstrated that its proposed WECA WCAP revenue objective of
\$226,000 is reasonable and appropriate. Therefore, the Commission suspends the filing
and will hold public hearings, if necessary, to determine whether the proposed increase is
appropriate.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the
State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates,
rules, regulations, practices, accounts and affiliated interests of public service
companies, including telecommunications companies.
- 7 (2) Westgate Communications, LLC dba WeavTel, is a telecommunications company
and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 8 (3) Westgate Communications, LLC dba WeavTel filed on February 20, 2014, a
proposal to increase its Washington Carrier Access Plan revenue objective from
\$38,623 to \$226,000.
- 9 (4) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on
March 27, 2014.
- 10 (5) Westgate Communications, LLC dba WeavTel has not yet demonstrated that the
proposed increase to its Washington Carrier Access Plan revenue objective is
reasonable and appropriate.
- 11 (6) Westgate Communications, LLC dba WeavTel bears the burden of proof to show
that the proposed increase is necessary.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 12 (1) Westgate Communications, LLC dba WeavTel's proposal to increase its
Washington Carrier Access Plan revenue objective filed on February 20, 2014, is
suspended.
- 13 (2) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective March 27, 2014.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Chairman

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner

JEFFREY D. GOLTZ, Commissioner