

IURC News Release

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission
302 West Washington Street, Room E306
Indianapolis Indiana 46204

317.232.2297 office
317.233.1982 fax
www.in.gov/iurc

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Contact: Mary Beth Fisher

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission Approves Expedited Procedure for Registration of Telecommunications Companies

Wednesday, in an Emergency Order in Cause No 43009, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) took steps necessary to implement the Telecommunications reform bill, HEA 1279, passed by the 2006 Indiana General Assembly and signed by the Governor. Today's order establishes an expedited Certificate of Territorial Authority (CTA) procedure.

This procedure will be used by new companies that wish provide telephone service and by existing companies that want to expand their territories to register with the Utility Commission as required by law. Under the new procedure all requests will be approved under an expedited 30-day process. The procedure adopted today is designed to streamline the regulatory procedures to authorize telecommunications services and create a climate for additional investment. Traditionally all but telecom resellers have been required to file a formally docketed petition with the Commission to obtain a new CTA or modify a CTA.

The application requirements of HEA 1279 will ultimately include filing of applications by providers seeking to offer video, broadband, and advanced services as well as Internet Protocol (IP) enabled services in addition to telecommunications service providers. For many of these services applications are not required until 2009. However, the Commission found that it is "prudent and in the public interest" to move forward in a "timely and efficient manner" to streamline the current CTA process so that it would be immediately available to telecommunications providers in the state and also be applicable for other services at a later date.

The actions by the IRUC serve to "effectuate the goals and purposes of HEA 1279 by promoting cost minimization, advancing consumer access to affordable basic telecommunications service in a timely and efficient manner and ensuring regulation consistent with a competitive environment."

The streamlined process is intended to remove regulatory barriers, encourage deployment of improved telecommunications services and stimulate economic growth throughout Indiana.

In other actions today, the Commission dismissed Cause No. 42530, originally decided on December 9, 2005, as well as Cause No. 42218. Under provisions of HEA 1279, the standards set for the services addressed in these causes revert to those established in prior Alternative Regulatory Plans (ARPS) for AT&T, Sprint and Verizon.

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