



DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE
COMMUNITY AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Sean Parnell, Governor
Susan Bell, Commissioner
Robert M. Pickett, Chairman

Regulatory Commission of Alaska

MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Kevin Meyer, Chair
Legislative Budget and Audit Committee

Date: July 21, 2010

From: Ann Wilde *AW*
Commission Section Manager

Phone: 907-263-2163
Email: Ann.Wilde@alaska.gov

CC: Robert M. Pickett, Chairman
Regulatory Commission of Alaska

Subject: Quarterly report for April 1-June 30, 2010

Under AS 42.05.175(g), the Commission is required to file quarterly reports with the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee identifying all extensions ordered under AS 42.05.175(f).

Acting in accordance with AS 42.05.175(f), the Commission extended the statutory timeline in the following dockets:

R-08-003/R-09-003, Order Extending Statutory Deadline and Rescheduling Hearing, dated May 10, 2010

U-10-020, Order Extending Statutory Timeline with Consent of All Parties of Record, dated June 10, 2010.

In accordance with AS 42.05.175(g), a copy of Order R-08-3(7)/R-09-3(3) is provided with this report. The dockets identified above may be viewed by searching matters on the Regulatory Commission of Alaska website at <http://rca.alaska.gov>.

STATE OF ALASKA

THE REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA

Before Commissioners:

Robert M. Pickett, Chairman
Kate Giard
Paul F. Lisankie
T.W. Patch
Janis W. Wilson

In the Matter of the Consideration of Modifying
Alaska Access Charge Policies and Using the
Alaska Universal Service Fund to Promote
Universal Service in Alaska

R-08-3

ORDER NO. 7

In the Matter of the Petition of the Alaska
Exchange Carriers Association, Inc. for
Amendments to the Alaska Intrastate
Interexchange Access Charge Manual and
Application for Temporary Waiver of Manual
Provisions Pending Conclusion of Proceeding

R-09-3

ORDER NO. 3

ORDER EXTENDING STATUTORY DEADLINE AND
RESCHEDULING HEARING

BY THE COMMISSION:

We opened Docket R-08-3 on May 20, 2008, to consider modifications to Alaska's access charge and universal service policies.¹ We are required to issue a final decision regarding this docket not later than 730 days after a complete petition for adoption, amendment, or repeal of a regulation is filed, which results in a statutory timeline for completing this docket of May 20, 2010.²

¹Order R-08-3(1), *Order Seeking Comment*, dated May 20, 2008 (Order R-08-3(1)).

²AS 42.05.175(e).

1 We may extend a timeline one time if before the timeline expires we find
2 good cause exists to extend the timeline; we issue a written order extending the timeline
3 and setting out our findings of good cause; and extend the timeline for 90 days or less.³
4 At the April 28, 2010, public meeting we determined that good cause exists to extend
5 the statutory deadline for Docket R-08-03.⁴ Accordingly, we voted to extend the
6 statutory timeline in this docket for 90 days.⁵

7 Good cause exists because additional time is necessary to conclude our
8 review of the issues in Docket R-08-03 due to the extreme complexity and broad scope
9 of the proposed regulatory changes. The proposed regulations are 23 pages in length
10 and affect local exchange, interexchange, and cellular carriers and their customers
11 throughout Alaska. These dockets include review of access charge policies, universal
12 service funding mechanisms, carrier of last resort policies, and changes to the *Alaska*
13 *Intrastate Interexchange Access Charge Manual*. The record in these dockets is
14 voluminous. For example, we received over one hundred pages of comments in
15 response to our most recent regulation proposal.⁶ We anticipate a similar volume of
16 reply comments on May 10, 2010. It is not possible to review these reply comments,
17 conduct a hearing, receive additional comments (if necessary), and finalize our
18 regulations prior to the May 20, 2010, deadline.

19 Additionally, good cause exists to extend the deadline as it allows
20 resolution of the regulatory issues that may substantially benefit the public. The
21

22 ³AS 42.05.175(f).

23 ⁴See April 28, 2010, Public Meeting at 28-36.

24 ⁵*Id.* at 34-37.

25 ⁶Order R-08-03(6)/R-09-3(2), *Order Inviting Comment on Regulations Proposed*
26 *in Docket R-08-3, and Consolidating Dockets*, dated March 18, 2010 (Order
R-08-03(6)/R-09-3(2)).

1 regulatory reforms we contemplate have the potential to substantially reduce the
2 currently high intrastate long distance rates paid by Alaska consumers, especially given
3 a pledge by one of the long distance carriers to reduce its intrastate long distance rates
4 for residential subscribers to interstate levels if we move forward with our access charge
5 reforms.⁷ This is one of several significant public interest benefits⁸ that may result from
6 our continued investigation in this proceeding.

7 The extension of the deadline will provide us necessary time to reach a
8 well-reasoned decision on these important policies. Accordingly, on our own motion, we
9 find good cause to extend the deadline in this docket 90 days from May 20, 2010, to
10 August 18, 2010.

11 Public hearing for these dockets had previously been scheduled for
12 May 13 and 14, 2010. An electronic order⁹ was issued May 7, 2010 cancelling these
13 hearing dates. Public hearing for these dockets is rescheduled to proceed on June 2,
14 2010, continuing to June 3, 2010, as needed.

15 **ORDER**

16 THE COMMISSION FURTHER ORDERS

17 1. The statutory timeline in this proceeding is extended to August 18,
18 2010.

19 2. The public hearing scheduled for May 13 and 14, 2010, is cancelled.

22 ⁷GCI's Reply Comments Regarding Commission Staff Proposal, filed April 19,
23 2010, at 19-20.

24 ⁸Order R-08-03(6)/R-09-3(2) explained in detail why we believed proposed
25 changes to our regulations were necessary and would benefit the public.

26 ⁹Electronic Order of Administrative Law Judge David A. Lawrence, issued May 7,
2010.

1 3. A public hearing¹⁰ is scheduled to convene at 10 a.m., June 2, 2010, in
2 the East Hearing Room of the Regulatory Commission of Alaska, 701 West Eighth
3 Avenue, Suite 300, Anchorage, Alaska. The hearing will continue as needed through
4 June 3, 2010.

5 DATED AND EFFECTIVE at Anchorage, Alaska, this 10th day of May, 2010.

6 BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION
7
8
9



21 ¹⁰If you are a person with a disability who may need a special accommodation,
22 auxiliary aid or service, or alternative communication format in order to participate in the
23 scheduled event, please contact Joyce McGowan at 1-907-276-6222, toll free at
24 1-800-390-2782, or TTY at 1-907-276-4533, or via electronic mail to
25 rca.mail@alaska.gov at least three business days before the scheduled event to make
26 the necessary arrangements.

Any party wishing to appear telephonically must advise us in writing before the
scheduled event to make the necessary arrangements and provide a telephone number
where it may be reached for that appearance.