



24 DEPOT SQUARE  
UNIT 2  
NORTHFIELD, VT 05663  
www.tds telecom.com

July 26, 2011

Debra A. Howland, Executive Director & Secretary  
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission  
21 S. Fruit St., Ste. 10  
Concord, NH 03301

Re: DT-11-151: Merrimack County Telephone Company Petition for an Alternative Form  
of Regulation

Dear Ms. Howland:

Attached is my original affidavit and six copies regarding the notice requirements set forth  
by the Commission in its Order of Notice in Docket 11-151. A copy of the order was  
published in the Concord Monitor on July 13, 2011.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me with any  
questions or further requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Murray", written over the printed name.

Thomas Murray  
TDS Telecom  
Manager-State Government Affairs (NY, VT, NH & ME)  
802-485-9724

Enclosure:

cc: Kate Bailey, Public Utilities Commission

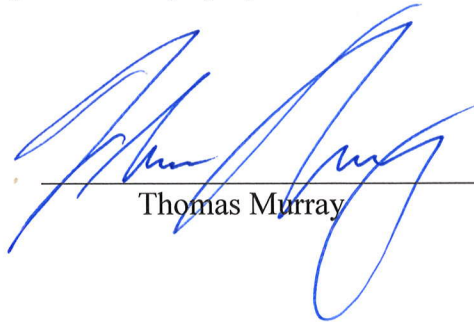
NHPUC JUL26'11 PM 4:33

**Affidavit of Thomas Murray**

I, Thomas Murray, do depose and state as follows under oath:

1. I am the Manager of State Government Affairs for Merrimack County Telephone Company (d/b/a TDS Telecom).
2. I have complied with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission Order of Notice in in Docket DT 11-151.
3. Specifically, I arranged for the Order of Notice to be published in the *Concord Monitor* on July 13, 2010 (see Attachment 1).

Signed under the pains and penalties of perjury.



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Thomas Murray

STATE OF VERMONT  
County of Washington, ss.

July 26, 2011

Then personally appeared the above named Thomas Murray, who stated that the foregoing was his free act and deed, before me.



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Notary Public

My Commission Expires: February 10 2015

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION DT11-151 MERRIMACK COUNTY TELEPHONE COMPANY** Petition for an Alternative Form of Regulation **ORDER OF NOTICE** On July 5, 2011, Merrimack County Telephone Company (MCT) filed a petition for an alternative form of regulation with the Commission. The petition and subsequent docket filings, other than information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, will be posted to the Commission's website at: <http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2011/11-151.html> According to its petition, MCT is a small incumbent local exchange carrier as defined in RSA 374:3-b and provides telephone services in the Antrim, Bradford, Contoocook, Henniker, Hillsborough, Melvin Village, Sutton and Warner exchanges to fewer than 25,000 access lines in New Hampshire. Pursuant to RSA 374:3-b, as amended in 2011, MCT seeks Commission approval of its plan for alternative regulation that would permit it to be regulated in a manner more comparable to competitive local exchange carriers in New Hampshire. According to its petition, approval of the alternative regulation plan will enable MCT to meet the competitive demands of the marketplace.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to whether the requirements of RSA 374:3-b, as amended, which requires the Commission to consider whether: (1) MCT has 25 percent fewer access lines than it did on December 31, 2004; (2) the plan provides for maximum stand-alone basic local service rates that do not exceed rates comparable to FairPoint's and do not increase more than 5 percent per year for the first 4 years of the plan; (3) the plan meets inter-carrier service obligations; (4) the plan preserves universal access to affordable stand-alone basic telephone service; and (5) the plan provides that if MCT fails to meet any of the conditions of the statute it may be required to propose modifications to its plan or return to rate of return regulation. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense.

**Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby ORDERED**, that a Prehearing Conference, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15, be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on July 27, 2011 at 10:00 a.m., at which each party will provide a preliminary statement of its position with regard to the petition and any of the issues set forth in N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15 shall be considered; and it is **FURTHER ORDERED**, that, immediately following the Prehearing Conference, MCT, the Staff of the Commission and any Intervenors hold a Technical Session to review the petition and allow MCT to provide any amendments or updates to its filing; and it is **FURTHER ORDERED**, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, MCT shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than July 13, 2011, in a newspaper with general circulation in those portions of the state in which operations are conducted, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before July 27, 2011; and it is **FURTHER ORDERED**, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.17, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission seven copies of a Petition to Intervene with copies sent to MCT and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before July 22, 2011, such Petition st

ating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interest may be affected by the proceeding, as required by N.H. Code Admin. Rule Puc 203.17 and RSA 541-A:32, 1(b); and it is **FURTHER ORDERED**, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before July 27, 2011.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of-New Hampshire this seventh day of July, 2011.

Debra A. Howland Executive Director Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability should contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, NHPUC, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429; 603-271-2431; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance should be made one week prior to the scheduled event.

July 13