

IDAPA 31 - IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

31.46.02 - RULES FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS RELAY SERVICES (TRS)

DOCKET NO. 31-4602-1602

NOTICE OF INTENT TO PROMULGATE RULES - NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING

AUTHORITY: In compliance with Sections 67-5220, Idaho Code, notice is hereby given that this agency intends to promulgate rules and desires public comment prior to initiating formal rulemaking procedures. This negotiated rulemaking action is authorized pursuant to Section 61-1306, Idaho Code.

METHOD OF PARTICIPATION: Interested persons wishing to participate in the negotiated rulemaking must respond to this notice by contacting the undersigned either in writing, by email, or by calling the phone number listed below. Anyone may submit written comments. To participate, responses must be received by July 27, 2016.

Should a reasonable number of persons respond to this notice, negotiated meetings will be scheduled and all scheduled meetings shall be posted and made accessible on the agency website at the address listed below.

Failure of interested persons to respond to this notice of intent, or an insufficient number of responses to this notice of intent may result in the discontinuation of further informal proceedings. In either event, the agency shall have sole discretion in determining the feasibility of scheduling and conducting informal negotiated rulemaking and may proceed directly to formal rulemaking if proceeding with negotiated rulemaking is deemed infeasible.

Upon the conclusion of the negotiated rulemaking, any unresolved issues, all key issues considered, and conclusions reached during the negotiated rulemaking will be addressed in a written summary and made available on the agency website.

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY: The following is a statement in nontechnical language of the substance and purpose of the intended negotiated rulemaking and the principal issues involved:

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission seeks to amend its Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS) Rules. TRS are services that enable a communications-impaired person to send and receive messages to and from a non-communications-impaired person, using specialized telecommunications equipment. The Commission contracts with a TRS Administrator that requests and evaluates proposals from TRS providers that wish to enter a contract to be a TRS provider for Idaho.

Proposed changes to the TRS Rules accomplish four objectives: (1) delete obsolete references; (2) correct misspellings and outdated email addresses; (3) improve the clarity or readability of rules; and (4) simplify the Administrator's process for requesting proposals from TRS providers. As to the fourth objective, the proposed changes reduce the number of members on the advisory committee that assists the Administrator in assessing TRS providers' responses to the requests, and that reviews the services provided by the selected provider.

ASSISTANCE ON TECHNICAL QUESTIONS, OBTAINING DRAFT COPIES: For assistance on technical questions concerning this negotiated rulemaking, contact Grace Seaman at (208) 334-0352. Materials pertaining to the negotiated rulemaking, including any available preliminary rule drafts, can be found on the Commission's website at <http://www.puc.idaho.gov>.

DATED this 2nd day of June, 2016.

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