

STATE OF IOWA  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE:  IOWA TELECOMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION	DOCKET NO. TF-07-125
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**ORDER GRANTING INTERVENTION AND  
DENYING MOTIONS TO EXTEND BRIEFING SCHEDULE**

(Issued September 13, 2007)

On September 11, 2007, the Rural Iowa Independent Telephone Association (RIITA) filed with the Utilities Board (Board) a petition to intervene in this proceeding pursuant to 199 IAC 7.13. In support of its petition, RIITA states that it has an interest in the subject matter of the proceeding because RIITA is an association of more than 100 rural independent local exchange carriers, some of which concur in the Iowa Telecommunications Association (ITA) tariff No. 1 (ITA No. 1) to some degree. RIITA states that the Board's August 30, 2007, order in this docket raises jurisdictional issues that affect the members of RIITA and RIITA therefore requests an opportunity to brief the issues identified in the August 30 order.

The Board will grant RIITA's petition to intervene pursuant to 199 IAC 7.13. The Board finds that as an association of local exchange carriers, many of which concur in ITA No. 1, RIITA has demonstrated a sufficient interest in this proceeding.

Also on September 11, 2007, RIITA requested the Board extend the procedural schedule established in the August 30, 2007, order. RIITA states that the

additional time would allow it to brief the issues properly and allow a wide-range of RIITA members to provide input.

On September 12, 2007, ITA filed a motion to extend the briefing schedule. ITA states that an extension of the schedule will allow it to assess the multiple implications of the jurisdictional questions included in the Board's August 30, 2007, order. ITA also states that it requires additional time to consult with representatives of its member carriers that concur in ITA No. 1 so as to evaluate the position ITA should take on behalf of these carriers with respect to the Board's jurisdiction over these issues.

The Board will deny the request to extend the briefing schedule. Sprint Communications Company L.P. (Sprint) and Verizon Business (Verizon) have objected to ITA's proposed tariff revision. In their objections, they asked that the Board suspend the proposed tariff for investigation. In the August 30, 2007, order, the Board identified certain questions concerning the Board's jurisdiction to review, approve, or deny the proposed tariff. Because of those questions, the Board determined that it was inappropriate to suspend ITA No. 1 pending the completion of this investigation. The Board allowed ITA No. 1 to become effective as of September 1, 2007, subject to investigation in this docket. Because the Board did not suspend ITA No. 1 as requested by Sprint and Verizon, the Board finds that its investigation into the questions identified in its August 30 order should be expedited. Therefore, absent a concurrence by Sprint and Verizon to extend the briefing

schedule, the Board will deny RIITA's and ITA's requests and maintain the briefing schedule established in the August 30 order.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

1. The petition to intervene filed by the Rural Iowa Independent Telephone Association on September 11, 2007, is granted.
2. The motions to extend the briefing schedule filed by the Rural Iowa Independent Telephone Association on September 11, 2007, and Iowa Telecommunications Association on September 12, 2007, are denied.

**UTILITIES BOARD**

/s/ John R. Norris

/s/ Curtis W. Stamp

ATTEST:

/s/ Sharon Mayer  
Executive Secretary, Assistant to

/s/ Krista K. Tanner

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2007.