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PRESS RELEASE

PUC Issues Orders for Regulation of Telecoms Industry

The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) issued two Orders today, to provide for the better implementation of the objectives of the Belize Telecommunications Act and for better regulation and control of the telecommunications sector in the public interest.

The Belize Telecommunications General Order (Interconnection, Infrastructure Sharing, International Access) No. 1 of 2010 deems it to be in the public interest for all telecommunications services licensees to interconnect networks and facilities, and for all telecommunications services licensees to share infrastructure, networks or facilities with other licensees for the provision of telecommunications services, upon reasonable request, and directs such interconnection and infrastructure sharing.

Among other things, it lays out the general terms and conditions under which all telecommunications services licensees and other persons shall be allowed access to international or foreign telecommunications services providers. It also designates the ARCOS-1 Landing Facility as a facility that shall be shared by all telecommunications services licensees where applicable, and restricts the deployment of infrastructure for a similar purpose unless in accordance with a license granted by PUC.

The Belize Telecommunications Interconnection and Infrastructure Sharing Regulation Order, 2010 makes provisions under which interconnection agreements and infrastructure and facilities sharing agreements are governed. It also prescribes the principles for determining rates, fees or charges in respect of interconnection and infrastructure sharing.

The Orders came into effect today, February 12, 2010.

The Orders shall be reviewed and may be amended by the Commission within twenty-eight (28) days of their making. Interested parties may make comments and representations on the Orders by March 5, 2010.

Interested parties may send written comments and representations to the Public Utilities Commission, 41 Gabourel Lane, Belize City, or by e-mail to info@puc.bz.

The full texts of the Orders are available to the general public on the PUC website, www.puc.bz, and are available for viewing at the offices of the PUC. (ENDS)