

Rural Task Force
Professional Qualifications for Nominee

Nominee: Joan Mandeville
Assistant Manager

Contact Information: Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
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Employment History: 1982 - 1989 Montana Public Service Commission
1989 - 1997 Montana Telephone Association
1997 - Present Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative

Nominee Category: Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (ILECs) serving rural areas with annual operating revenues of \$40 million or less.

Professional Qualifications: Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Carroll College, 1980.
Current non-practicing Certified Public Accountant Certificate.
Fifteen years' experience in the telecommunications industry.

Regulatory Experience: While working for the Montana Public Service Commission, Ms. Mandeville was a member of a small team that developed all technical telecommunications issues and produced recommendations to the Commissions on all regulatory matters necessary to establish carrier access charges, to implement the divestiture of AT&T, and to implement other pricing and policy changes.

Ms. Mandeville was responsible for all of the regulatory work for the Montana Telephone Association. She frequently testified as an expert witness before the Montana Commission. In her present position, Ms. Mandeville is responsible for the regulatory work of Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative and its subsidiaries, Clark Fork Telecommunications (an ILEC) and Montana Wireless (a CLEC).

Background - Policy Issues: Ms. Mandeville has a broad background in telecommunications policy issues. She had primary responsibility in the revenue requirement bureau for all telecommunications policy issues. Additionally, she facilitated the Commission's Task Force on

Interconnection Issues for Small Companies. Her work with the Montana Telephone Association included representing Montana's independent telephone companies in a wide variety of policy forums including Montana Commission proceedings, the state legislature, the Governor's Blue Ribbon Telecommunications Task Force, and testifying before a Congressional sub-committee concerning universal service issues. Ms. Mandeville prepared several sets of comments to the Federal Communications Commission on universal service proceedings and assisted in writing Montana's universal service statutes.

**Background -
Economics:**

Ms. Mandeville's work at the Montana Commission included a variety of proceedings that addressed pricing issues. These proceedings included establishment of carrier access charges for all local exchange companies and other pricing issues for large local exchange companies. Parties engaged in vigorous debates about long run incremental costing methodology and reconciliation between the outcome of LRIC studies and total revenue requirements.

Ms. Mandeville administered Montana's carrier access charge pool for small companies during her tenure at the Montana Telephone Association. This work included preparing all regulatory filings and testifying on a variety of pricing issues.

**Background -
Engineering:**

Ms. Mandeville's responsibilities for regulation and pricing issues requires ongoing familiarity and education in basic telecommunications network operations. She has attended a variety of seminars and short courses on telecommunications technology. If nominated, Ms. Mandeville will work closely with Blackfoot Telephone's engineering department which is managed by a Professional Engineer with over 25 years of telecommunications experience.

**Representation
of a Variety of
Economic, Social,
and Geographic
Interests:**

Ms. Mandeville has a substantial history of working closely with all of Montana's telecommunications industry participants. Her work with the Montana Telephone Association established a reasonably detailed knowledge about all of Montana's small companies. These companies face a wide variety of challenges, diverse geographical characteristics and diverse local economies. Additionally, several of Montana's rural companies, including Blackfoot Telephone, serve Native American Reservations.