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State of Utah
Department of Commerce
Division of Public Utilities

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May 20, 2019

TO: PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

FROM: DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

Chris Parker, Director
Bill Duncan, Manager, Telecommunications and Water
Paul Hicken, Utility Technical Consultant
Mark Long, Utility Analyst

Re: Utah Docket No. 19-052-T01, TARIFF: South Central Utah Telephone Association, Inc. – Proposed Tariff Revisions to Update Old Text, Eliminate Services with no Customers, and Introduce New Service Offerings.

ISSUE:

South Central Utah Telephone Association (SCUTA) submitted a filing dated April 15, 2019 to accomplish several purposes: 1) to eliminate several services no longer available, 2) to revise outdated language and text on multiple sheets in the tariff, and 3) to introduce Direct Inward Dialing (DID) service and Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN). The requested effective date of the filing is May 31, 2019.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve Tariff Revisions as Proposed.

The Division of Public Utilities (DPU) has reviewed this filing, which is quite extensive with changes and revisions to more than 50 sheets. The Division submitted a data request for further explanation and documentation on April 24, 2019 and the response was received on May 14, 2019.

Some services were eliminated because they were deemed obsolete or no longer necessary. For example, Teen Line Service, Pay Phone Service and Frame Relay Service were deleted. These services are no longer offered and were removed from the tariff revision.

Many other changes to text and language were submitted in order to provide clarity and detail, but not interfere with service or rates. For example, these include changing the sheet number, adding new contact information and/or changing the effective date on a specific sheet. These changes were noted in the right margin with (T) for text change, (D) for discontinued or deleted, and (L) for location change to a different sheet.

Finally, new services and rates were noted with (N) in the right margin of the revision. The filing introduced new services of Direct Inward Dialing (DID) and Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) with accompanying rates. The cost analysis for these new services was lacking because they have not been in service and cost data was not available. However, rates for similar services from four other rural ILECs were compared and SCUTA's rates were within a comparable range and appeared to be just and reasonable. In addition, SCUTA is a telephone cooperative and is adhering to the requirements for introducing new services as specified in UCA 54-7-12 (7).

The Division recommends the tariff revisions be approved as requested and become effective on May 31, 2019.

CC: Michael East, South Central Utah Telephone Association, Inc.
Justin Jetter, Assistant Attorney General, Utah Attorney General's Office
Marialie Martinez, Customer Service Manager, Utah Division of Public Utilities
Cheryl Murray, Office of Consumer Services
Kira M. Slawson, Blackburn & Stoll, LC