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State of Utah
Department of Commerce
Division of Public Utilities

FRANCINE GIANI CHRIS PARKER
Executive Director *Director, Division of Public Utilities*

Action Request Response

To: Utah Public Service Commission

From: Utah Division of Public Utilities

Chris Parker, Director

Artie Powell, Manager

Brenda Salter, Utility Technical Consultant Supervisor

Paul Hicken, Technical Consultant

Mark Long, Utility Analyst

Date: November 5, 2019

Re: **Docket No. 19-052-T02**, South Central Utah Telephone Association Inc. – Proposed
Tariff Revisions

Recommendation (Approval)

The Division of Public Utilities (Division) recommends that the Public Service Commission (Commission) approve South Central Utah Telephone Association Inc.'s (SCUTA) proposed revision of Local Access Tariff No. 5 pertaining to the Lifeline Telephone Assistance Program.

Issue

On October 30, 2019, SCUTA filed modified tariff pages in compliance with the 2016 Federal Communication Commission (FCC) Lifeline Modernization Order. On October 31, 2019 the Commission issued an Action Request for the Division to investigate the proposed changes and report its findings and recommendation to the Commission by November 15, 2019. This memorandum represents the Division's response to the Commission's Action Request.

Background

Lifeline is a federal and state program that lowers the monthly cost of phone and internet for eligible low-income customers. Lifeline eligibility is determined by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). SCUTA submitted a filing to the Commission dated October 30, 2019 to change its Local Access Tariff No. 5 pertaining to Lifeline Assistance in order to be in compliance with the 2016 FCC Lifeline Modernization Order. The revision reduces the normal residential one-party rate from \$9.25 to \$7.25 per month per eligible line as defined and set forth in 47 CFR § 54.403.

Conclusion

The Division has reviewed this filing and has no objection to South Central Utah Communications Inc.'s request to revise the tariff in order to comply with the FCC Lifeline Modernization Order. The Division therefore recommends this filing become effective on December 1, 2019.

Cc: (Service List)