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State of Utah

Department of Commerce

Division of Public Utilities

CHRIS PARKER ARTIE POWELL
Executive Director *Director, Division of Public Utilities*

Action Request Response

To: Utah Public Service Commission
From: Utah Division of Public Utilities
Artie Powell, Director
Brenda Salter, Utility Technical Consultant Supervisor
Shauna Benvegna-Springer, Utility Technical Consultant
Vana Venjimuri, Utility Analyst II
Date: June 9, 2020
Re: **Docket No: 20-051-T01**, Beehive Telephone Company's Proposed Tariff Revisions.

Recommendation (Approval)

The Division of Public Utilities ("Division") recommends that the Public Service Commission ("Commission") approve Beehive Telephone Company's ("Company") proposed reduction.¹ The Division has reviewed the Company's filing and the Company's revised tariff sheets. The Division, therefore, recommends the Company's existing tariff be revised effective on July 1, 2020, as requested.

¹ Except for Entrance Facility Voice Grade Four Wire charge, which mirrors their interstate tariff, has increased by 2.53% from the previous tariff sheets.

Discussion

On May 28, 2020, the Company filed proposed tariff revisions, as prescribed by the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) rules, with the Commission. The proposed local switching and transport rates are decreasing by 1.49% to reflect the final FCC “step down” of the end terminating rates, except for Entrance Facility Voice Grade Four Wire which mirrors their interstate tariff. The Commission issued an action request for the Division to investigate the proposed tariff revisions. The Division reviewed the Company’s proposed reduction to its Local Transport-LTR and Local Switching-LTR intrastate access rates and the related FCC rules. Even though the rates decreased the revenue is not affected as the Company does not have customers who are using any of these rates at this time.

In reviewing the Company’s advice letter for this matter, the Division reviewed Utah Administrative Code Rule 746-405-2 (D) (3) (g), which requires a statement that the tariff sheets proposed do not constitute a violation of state law or Commission rule. However, the rule also states that the filing of proposed tariff sheets shall of itself constitute the representation of the filing utility that it, in good faith, believes the proposed sheets or revised sheets to be consistent with applicable statutes, rules and orders. The filing does not appear to violate statute or rule.

Conclusion

Based on the Division’s review, the Division recommends the Commission approve the Company’s proposed revisions to its Local Transport-LTR and Local Switching-LTR intrastate access rates. The Division believes that the changes are consistent with the FCC’s prescribed rules and transition of charges. The Division recommends that the Commission approve the tariff sheets as presented in the company’s filing.

Cc: Cameron Francis, Beehive Telephone Company
Larry Mason, Beehive Telephone Company
Charles Pritchett, Beehive Telephone Company
Cheryl Murray, Office of Consumer Services
Adam W Holstun, GVNW Consulting, Inc.