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UTAH DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Division of Public Utilities

MARGARET W. BUSSE
Executive Director

CHRIS PARKER
Division Director

Action Request Response

To: Public Service Commission of Utah

From: Utah Division of Public Utilities

Chris Parker, Director
Artie Powell, Manager
Brenda Salter, Utility Technical Consultant Supervisor
Paul Hicken, Technical Consultant

Date: June 23, 2022

Re: **Docket No. 22-046-T01**, TARIFF Manti Telephone Company's Proposed Tariff Revisions to reduce or eliminate 8YY originating access charges to comply with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) 8YY Reform Order.

Recommendation (Approve Tariff Sheets)

The Division of Public Utilities (DPU or Division) has reviewed the tariff filing and recommends the Public Service Commission (PSC or Commission) approve Manti Telephone Company's (Manti or Company) request to revise the 8YY Access Charge Rates. The Division therefore recommends the tariff change become effective on July 1, 2022.

Issue

On June 17, 2022, Manti submitted to the Commission, Advice Letter Manti Telephone Company Docket No. 22-046-T01 including revised tariff sheets, with the purpose to revise the tariff rates as required in the FCC's 8YY Access Charge Reform, Report and Order FCC 20-143, WC Docket No. 18-156, adopted October 7, 2020.¹ The Commission issued an Action Request on June 17, 2022, for the Division to investigate the proposed changes and report its findings and recommendation to the Commission as soon as possible. This memorandum represents the Division's response to the Commission's Action Request.

¹ FCC Order 20-143, WC Docket No. 18-156 adopted October 7, 2020.

Background

In October 2020, the FCC adopted an order to modernize rules for toll free (8YY) calling. The order steps down 8YY originating access charges to a bill-and-keep system over a transition period beginning July 1, 2021 and ending July 1, 2023. Originating 8YY transport and tandem switching fees were combined to a single transport service rate capped at \$0.001 per minute effective July 1, 2021. Charges for 8YY database queries will also be transitioned to \$0.0002 over the three-year transition period. Additionally, the order combines separate 8YY transport and tandem switching charges into a single access charge.²

Discussion

The Division reviewed the redlined version of the tariff sheets submitted with the Company's filing. The proposed rates for Tandem Switched Terminating Access have been eliminated and the rate for Database Queries have been reduced by 50 percent as required by the stepdown reduction plan. The rate changes appear to comply with the FCC's 8YY Reform Order.

There were also two proposed rate increases to Service Connection fees. The service order charge increased from \$15.00 to \$30.00, and the premise charge increased from \$30.00 to \$50.00 for the first half hour and \$80.00 per hour thereafter. These rates have not been adjusted since 2003, and according to the Company, the costs of labor and other operations have increased considerably since that time. The Division believes these proposed rate increases are just and reasonable.

Conclusion

The Division has reviewed Manti's filing and has no objections to the proposed revisions. Therefore, the Division recommends the Commission approve this filing as submitted, with an effective date of July 1, 2022, as requested.

cc: Dallas Cox, Manti Telephone Company
Tami Hansen, Manti Telephone Company
Margie Mersman, TCA

² Ibid p.2(4)