

Kira M. Slawson (7081)
BLACKBURN & STOLL, L.C.
Attorneys for Gunnison Telephone Company
257 East 200 South, Suite 800
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111
Telephone: (801) 521-7900
Fax: (801) 578-3579

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

IN THE MATTER OF GUNNISON) Docket No. 16-043-T02
TELEPHONE COMPANY’S PETITION)
FOR APPROVAL TO REVISE ITS) PETITION FOR APPROVAL TO
TARIFFS TO INCREASE RATES TO THE) REVISE TARIFFS
AFFORDABLE BASE RATES)
)
)

On April 18, 2016, the Commission issued a Notice of Requirement to File a Petition to Amend Tariff or to Deviate from the Affordable Base Rate in Docket No. 16-R360-01 (the “Notice”). On May 26, 2016, the Commission filed a Supplemental Notice (“Supplemental Notice”). On June 7, 2016, the Commission issued a Notice of Change to Proposed rule and Order Setting Utah Affordable Base Rate (“Order”).

Pursuant to the Order, the following proposed amendments to rule R746-360-6 (“Amendment”) were issued by the Commission:

R746-360-2.B Rate Floor

1. Unless a petition brought pursuant to Subsection (B)(2) is granted after adjudication, to be eligible for USF subsidization, a telecommunications corporation shall charge, at a minimum, the following Affordable Base Rates for basic telecommunications services;
 - a. As of July 1, 2016:
 - i. \$18.00 per residential line; and
 - ii. \$26.00 per business line.

- b. As of July 1, 2017:
 - i. \$20 per residential line; and
 - ii. \$26.00 per business line.

The Notice provided that a telecommunications provider must petition the Commission for approval to revise its tariff in order to increase its rate(s) and such petition must be filed at least seven (7) days prior to the date on which the telecommunications provider proposes to begin charging the new rate(s).

The Supplemental Notice issued by the Commission stated:

“By definition, the Utah affordable base rate includes ‘monthly per line retail rates, charges or fees for basic telecommunications service[.]’ Utah Administrative Code R746-360-2. Any Utah rural telecommunications provider that petitions for a rate change in order to comply with the Commission’s affordable base rate is directed to specify whether the revised rate includes mandatory extended area service fees, state subscriber line fees, and/or state universal service charges. If the revised rate is intended to be inclusive, the petitioner is directed to itemize the fees and charges that sum to the affordable base rate.”¹

The Order provides that “a provider that wishes to include mandatory extended area service fees, state subscriber line fees, and/or universal service charges in the base rate shall itemize in its tariff the various fee and charges that sum to the affordable base rates.”²

The final rule has not yet gone into effect. Nevertheless, Gunnison Telephone Company (“Gunnison”) hereby petitions the Commission for approval to revise its tariff in order to increase its rates pursuant to the *proposed* Affordable Base Rate Rule R746-360-6, the Notice, the Supplemental Notice, and the Order. Specifically, Gunnison requests approval of Gunnison’s tariff revisions to include a rate increase, effective July 1, 2016, in the R-1

¹ Supplemental Notice dated May 26, 2016, p. 1.

² Order dated June 7, 2016, p. 3.

Residential rates as follows:³:

Exchange	Current Rate	New Rate
All Exchanges	\$16.50	\$17.50

Gunnison is also requesting a change in the Teen Line Service rate to be 100% of the Residential Service Rate.⁴ The revised residential rates will not be inclusive of the mandatory extended area service (“EAS”), state Universal Service Fund (“State USF”) surcharges, and state subscriber line charges (“State SLC”). Rather, such rate elements will remain separate. However, the sum of the Residential (R-1) rate, the mandatory EAS, the State USF Surcharge, and the State SLCs is at least \$18.00 for residential service as required by the Commission

Order:

<u>Rate Elements</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Residential Rate	\$17.50
Mandatory EAS	\$0.48
State SLC	n/a
State USF	\$0.18
Total:	\$18.16

Pursuant to the Notice, the requested effective date of the tariff revisions to increase rates is on July 1, 2016, which is after June 1, 2016; the Petition is being filed seven (7) days before the proposed effective date of the new rates; the requested Residential (R1) rate does not exceed \$18; and no other changes are proposed to Gunnison’s tariff. Therefore, all of the requirements set forth in the Notice have been met by this filing, and Gunnison is entitled to approval of the tariff revisions, and rate increases as requested herein. Further, as provided in the Notice, this Petition should be adjudicated informally without hearing.

³ Revised Tariff Sheet No. 24 is attached to this Petition as Exhibit 1.

⁴ Revised Tariff Sheet No. 59 is attached to this Petition as Exhibit 2.

For informational purposes only, Gunnison's current Business (B1) rate is already at the Commission set affordable base rate for business, so no rate increase is sought for Business rates.

<u>Rate Elements</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Business Rate	\$26.00
Mandatory EAS	\$0.48
State SLC	n/a
State USF	\$0.27
Total:	\$26.75

CONCLUSION

Gunnison petitions the Commission for approval to revise its tariff in order to increase its rates to preserve Gunnison's eligibility for State USF support. Gunnison has met all of the requirements for informal adjudication of its Petition for Approval of Tariff Revisions, and is entitled to the rate increases requested herein, effective July 1, 2016.

Respectfully submitted this 23rd day of June, 2016.

BLACKBURN & STOLL, LC

Kira M. Slawson
Attorneys for Gunnison Telephone
Company

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 23rd day of June, 2016, I served a true and correct copy of Gunnison Telephone Company's Petition for Approval to Revise Tariff, Docket 16-043-T02, via e-mail transmission to the following persons at the e-mail addresses listed below:

Division of Public Utilities

Bill Duncan

Chris Parker

Dennis Miller

wduncan@utah.gov

chrisparker@utah.gov

dennismiller@utah.gov

Office of Consumer Services

Michelle Beck

mbeck@utah.gov

Assistant Utah Attorneys Generals

Justin Jetter

Robert Moore

jjetter@utah.gov

rmoore@utah.gov

Kira M. Slawson

Exhibit 1

Gunnison Telephone Company
Docket No. 16-043-T02

5th Revised Tariff Sheet No. 24
5th Revised Tariff Sheet No. 24 (redline)

Exhibit 2
Gunnison Telephone Company
Docket No. 16-043-T02

1st Revised Tariff Sheet No. 59
1st Revised Tariff Sheet No. 59 (redline)