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## State of Utah

### Department of Commerce Division of Public Utilities

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*Director, Division of Public Utilities*

## Action Request Response

**To:** Public Service Commission of Utah

**From:** Utah Division of Public Utilities

Artie Powell, Director

Brenda Salter, Utility Technical Consultant Supervisor

Paul Hicken, Technical Consultant

**Date:** July 14, 2020

**Re:** **Docket No. 20-041-T02**, Citizens Telecommunications Company of Utah dba  
Frontier Communications of Utah's Proposed Tariff Revisions.

### 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 Citizens Telecommunications Company of Utah dba Frontier Communications of Utah (Citizens or Company) request to grandfather the Wide Area Telecommunications Service (WATS). The Division therefore recommends this filing become effective on or before August 10, 2020 as requested.

### Issue

On July 8, 2020 the Company submitted to the Commission, Advice Letter UT-20-02 including revised tariff sheets, with the purpose to grandfather Wide Area Telephone Service limiting this offering to existing subscribers at their existing locations. The Commission issued an Action Request on the same day for the Division to investigate the proposed tariff changes and report its findings and recommendation. This memo represents the Division's response to the Commission's Action Request.

## **Background**

Wide Area Telecommunications Service allows a subscriber to make an unlimited number of long-distance telephone calls within a given service area for a fixed monthly charge or to receive calls from given areas with no charge to the caller. WATS was introduced in the 1960s as a primitive long-distance flat rate plan and was supplanted in the 1980s due to intelligent network and technological advancements.

## **Discussion**

This type of service offering was prevalent 40-50 years ago and popular for subscribers making numerous long distance calls. Technology and intelligent networks have made this service nearly obsolete. The Company would like to grandfather this service and provide it only to existing customers in existing service areas. No new customers will be offered this service. This proposed revision to the tariff will not affect the overall revenue picture of the company and no other rates are affected

## **Conclusion**

The Division has reviewed Citizen's filing and has no objection to the proposed changes. Therefore, the Division recommends the Commission approve this filing with the proposed effective date of August 10, 2020, as requested.

cc: Carl E. Erhart, Manager, Government & External Affairs, Citizens and Navajo Communications  
Leslie Zink, Sr. Manager, Pricing & Tariffs, Frontier Communications  
Justin Jetter, Assistant Attorney General, Utah Attorney General's Office  
Marialie Wright, Manager, Customer Service, Utah Division of Public Utilities