



State of Utah

Department of Commerce
Division of Public Utilities

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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, Utility Technical Consultant

Date: November 4, 2021

Re: **Docket No. 21-041-T03, TARIFF** Citizens Telecommunications Company of Utah
d/b/a Frontier Communications of Utah's Tariff Revisions to change the Federal
Lifeline Support Credit – Voice.

Recommendation (Approve Tariff Sheets)

The Division of Public Utilities (DPU or Division) has reviewed the tariff filing and recommends the Public Service Commission (Commission) approve Citizens Telecommunications Company of Utah d/b/a Frontier Communications of Utah's (Citizens) request to change the Federal Lifeline Support Credit – Voice discount to conform with the FCC's Lifeline Modernization, Order No. FCC 16-38. The Division recommends this filing become effective on or before December 1, 2021.

Issue

On October 29, 2021, Citizens submitted Advice Letter UT-21-03 with revised tariff sheets, with the purpose to change the Federal Lifeline Support Credit – Voice discount from \$5.25 to \$6.50 as a result of the FCC's Lifeline Modernization, WC Docket No. 11-42, Order No. FCC 16-38,

issued April 27, 2016. The Commission issued an Action Request on October 29, 2021, for the Division to investigate the proposed changes and report its findings and recommendation to the Commission by November 12, 2021. This memorandum represents the Division's response to the Commission's Action Request.

Background

In April 2016, the FCC released the 2016 Lifeline Order to allow Lifeline subscribers to apply the \$9.25 monthly Lifeline discount to broadband and broadband-voice bundled service, set minimum service standards for Lifeline-supported service, and establish the National Verifier as a neutral third party to make eligibility decisions. In addition, the Order allowed a five and one-half year transition period, during which mobile voice and data requirements would be gradually increased and voice support levels would be decreased. At the end of the transition period the discount for voice would be changed from \$5.25 to \$6.50 per month to represent the change in support levels.

Conclusion

The Division has reviewed Citizen's filing and has no objections to the proposed revisions. Therefore, the Division recommends the Commission approve this filing as submitted on or before December 1, 2021, 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