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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, Technical Consultant

Date: June 6, 2022

Re: **Docket No. 22-041-T02, TARIFF** Citizens Telecommunications Company of Utah d/b/a Frontier Communications of Utah's 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 Citizens Telecommunications Company of Utah d/b/a Frontier Communications of Utah's (Citizens) request to revise the 8YY Access Charge Rates. The Division therefore recommends the tariff change become effective on July 1, 2022.

Issue

On May 27, 2022, Citizens submitted to the Commission, Advice Letter UT-22-02 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 May 27, 2022, for the Division to investigate the proposed changes and report its findings and recommendation to the Commission on June 10, 2022. 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 rate for originating access has been reduced by 50 percent as required by the stepdown reduction plan and appears to comply with the FCC's 8YY Reform Order. No other rates were affected by the order and no other rate changes were proposed.

Conclusion

The Division has reviewed Citizens' 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: Carl E. Erhart, Manager, Government & External Affairs, Citizens and Navajo Communications.
Leslie Zink, Sr. Manager, Pricing & Tariffs, Frontier Communications.

² Ibid p.2(4)