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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  
Brenda Salter, Assistant Director  
Abdinasir Abdulle, Utility Technical Consultant Supervisor  
Doug Wheelwright, Utility Technical Consultant Supervisor  
Shauna Benvegna-Springer, Utility Technical Consultant  
Annette Orton, Utility Analyst

**Date:** June 8, 2023

**Re:** **Docket No. 23-052-T01**, South Central Utah Telephone Association, Inc.'s Tariff Revisions to the 8YY Access Charges Rates

## Recommendation (Approval)

The Division of Public Utilities (Division) has reviewed the tariff filing and recommends that the Public Service Commission (Commission) approve South Central Utah Telephone Association, Inc.'s (Company) request to revise its tariff sheets as summarized in its cover letter. The Division, therefore, recommends that the tariff changes become effective on July 1, 2023.

## Issue

On May 26, 2023, the Company submitted to the Commission Advice Letter UT-23-052-T01, Docket No. 23-052-T01 Proposed Tariff Revisions. The filing included a cover letter with a summary of the changes on each page, rate, and rule, including revised tariff sheets and a redlined tariff. The proposed tariff changes 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, released October 9, 2020, adopted October 7, 2020, erratum released October 30, 2020,

Division of Public Utilities

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with the second erratum released November 27, 2020<sup>1</sup>. The Commission issued an Action Request to the Division on May 26, 2023, to investigate the proposed changes and report its findings and recommendation to the Commission by June 9, 2023. This memorandum represents the Division's response to the Commission's Action Request.

## **Background**

The FCC adopted an order in October 2020 to modernize toll-free (8YY) calling rules. The order steps down 8YY originating access charges to a bill-and-keep system over a transition period beginning July 1, 2022, and ending July 1, 2023. Originating 8YY transport and tandem switching fees were combined to a single transport services rate capped at \$0.001 per minute, effective July 1, 2022. 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. The Company submitted the previous rate change to comply with the interstate rule order.

## **Discussion**

The Division reviewed the redlined version of the tariff sheets submitted with the Company's filing. The proposed rates for terminating access have been adjusted according to the announced rate order. The toll-free access and query rates have been adjusted in accordance with the step-down reduction plan and appear to comply with the FCC's 8YY Reform Order. No other rates were affected by the order, and no other rate changes were proposed.

The Division reviewed and analyzed the impact on the revenue because of the rate changes. The switched access common carrier line rate decreased to \$0.00. The overall revenue impact was nearly zero.

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<sup>1</sup> Federal Communications Commission Order 20-143, WC Docket No, 181-156, adopted October 7, 2020. <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-143A1.pdf>

## **Conclusion**

The Division has reviewed South Central Utah Telephone Association, Inc.'s filing and has no objections to the proposed revisions. Therefore, the Division recommends that the Commission approve this filing as submitted, effective July 1, 2023, as requested.

cc: Tym Rutkowski, Regulatory Consulting Senior Manager, Moss Adams LLP  
Stephen Jantz, South Central Utah Telephone Association  
Lella Richards, South Central Utah Telephone Association