
2023 Annual Report of Gunnison Telephone Company	<u>DOCKET NO. 24-043-01</u> <u>ORDER APPROVING 2025 DISTRIBUTION</u>
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ISSUED: December 24, 2024

BACKGROUND

On March 19, 2024, Gunnison Telephone Company (“Gunnison”) filed its Annual Report for Calendar Year 2023 (“Report”) and on May 17, 2024 Gunnison filed a Revised Annual Report with the Public Service Commission (PSC). On September 3, 2024, the Division of Public Utilities (DPU) filed its initial recommendation for the 2025 Utah Universal Public Telecommunications Service Support Fund (“UUSF”) calendar year distribution and on September 4, 2024, the PSC issued a Notice of Filing and Comment Period, seeking comments on DPU’s initial recommendation on or before October 4, 2024. No comments were filed.

On November 1, 2024, DPU filed its final comments which included final recommended UUSF annual disbursements, consistent with Utah Admin. Code R746-8-401(10)(e). Challenges to DPU’s final recommendations were accepted until November 15, 2024, in accordance with Utah Admin. Code R746-8-401(10)(f). Additional comments were provided by DPU and the Utah Rural Telecom Association in support of the DPU’s final recommendation and no challenges to that final recommendation were filed.

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Utah Admin. Code R746-8-401 requires DPU to make annual recommendations to the PSC for adjustments to the monthly UUSF distribution to each provider based on an established Federal Communications Commission rate of return and the provider's most recent financial information reflected in its annual report filed with the PSC. DPU recommends an increase of \$183,429.00 to the prior year's UUSF distribution for Gunnison (\$454,946.00). Specifically, in calculating Gunnison's eligibility for the UUSF distribution, DPU reviewed its rate of return, state and federal income taxes, depreciation, federal USF excluded costs, UUSF eligibility, accumulated deferred income taxes, and federal USF assistance. DPU recommends a 2025 UUSF calendar year distribution for Gunnison in the amount of \$638,375.00¹ to be distributed in twelve monthly payments of \$53,197.92.² As illustrated in Exhibit A, the 2025 UUSF distribution for Gunnison's is a 40.32% increase from its 2024 distribution.

Based on the Report and DPU's review, investigation, analysis, and uncontested final recommendation, we find and conclude that Gunnison is eligible to receive DPU's recommended 2025 UUSF calendar year distribution in the amount of \$638,375.00, pursuant to Utah Code Ann. § 54-8b-15.

¹ See *Miscellaneous Correspondence and Reports Regarding Telecommunications Utility Services; 2024*, Docket No. 24-999-03, Comments from the Division of Public Utilities filed November 1, 2024, DPU Exhibit 1.

² Monthly payments are substantially equal with the twelfth payment used to true-up the amount to the ordered annual distribution.

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ORDER

The PSC approves a 2025 UUSF calendar year distribution of \$638,375.00 for Gunnison, to be disbursed in twelve monthly payments in the amount of \$53,197.92.

DATED at Salt Lake City, Utah, December 24, 2024.

/s/ Jerry D. Fenn, Chair

/s/ David R. Clark, Commissioner

/s/ John S. Harvey, Ph.D., Commissioner

Attest:

/s/ Gary L. Widerburg
PSC Secretary
DW#337299

Exhibit A
Summary of 2025 UUSF Disbursements

	Disbursement 2024	Disbursement 2025	Increase/ (decrease)	individual change
All West	\$3,445,674.00	\$3,689,761.00	\$244,087.00	7.08%
Bear Lake	-	-	-	-
Central	\$42,836.00	\$266,962.00	\$224,126.00	523.22%
Skyline	-	-	-	-
Beehive	\$2,398,770.00	\$2,503,095.00	\$104,325.00	4.35%
Direct CCV	\$2,604,685.00	\$2,355,173.00	(\$249,512.00)	-9.58%
Emery	\$2,392,909.00	\$977,603.00	\$(1,415,306.00)	-59.15%
Carbon/Emery	\$2,262,786.00	\$3,115,153.00	\$852,367.00	37.67%
Hanksville	\$51,194.00	\$71,138.00	\$19,944.00	38.96%
Gunnison	\$454,946.00	\$638,375.00	\$183,429.00	40.32%
Frontier (Citizens)	\$3,084,978.00	\$3,022,487.00	\$(62,491.00)	-2.03%
Frontier Navajo	\$749,326.00	\$518,268.00	\$(231,058.00)	-30.84%
Manti	\$919,431.00	\$993,263.00	\$73,832.00	8.03%
SCUTA	\$8,598,237.00	\$8,995,500.00	\$397,263.00	4.62%
Strata (UBTA-UBET)	\$6,049,028.00	\$6,962,845.00	\$913,817.00	15.11%
Union	-	-	-	-
E-Fiber Moab	\$1,114,971.00	\$2,322,274.00	\$1,207,303.00	108.28%
E-Fiber San Juan	\$1,145,821.00	\$2,010,987.00	\$865,166.00	75.51%
Total	\$35,315,592.00	\$38,442,884.00	\$3,127,292.00	

Notice of Opportunity for Agency Review or Rehearing

Pursuant to Utah Code Ann. §§ 63G-4-301 and 54-7-15, a party may seek agency review or rehearing of this written order by filing a request for review or rehearing with the PSC within 30 days after the issuance of the order. Responses to a request for agency review or rehearing must be filed within 15 days of the filing of the request for review or rehearing. If the PSC fails to grant a request for review or rehearing within 30 days after the filing of a request for review or rehearing, it is deemed denied. Judicial review of the PSC's final agency action may be obtained by filing a Petition for Review with the Utah Supreme Court within 30 days after final agency action. Any Petition for Review must comply with the requirements of Utah Code Ann. §§ 63G4-401, 63G-4-403, and the Utah Rules of Appellate Procedure.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I CERTIFY that on December 24, 2024, a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served upon the following as indicated below:

By Email:

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/s/ Melissa R. Paschal
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