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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
Doug Wheelwright, Utility Technical Consultant Supervisor
Annette Orton, Utility Analyst

Date: May 30, 2024

Re: **Docket No. 24-2201-T01**, TARIFF Bear Lake Communications, Inc. 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 Bear Lake Communications, Inc. d/b/a CentraCom (Bear Lake or Company) request to revise tariff rates to comply with the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) interstate carrier compensation rules. The Division recommends the tariff change be approved with an effective date of July 1, 2024.

Issue

On May 16, 2024, Bear Lake submitted revised tariff sheets, which conform with access rate increase announced on April 8, 2024, by the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA),¹ and to comply with the FCC rules governing intercarrier compensation. The Commission issued an Action Request on May 16, 2024, for the Division to investigate the proposed changes and report its findings and recommendations by May 30, 2024. This memorandum represents the Division's response to the Commission's Action Request.

¹ See *in the Matter of Connect America Fund, et al.*, WC Docket No. 10-90 et al., Order DA 13-564 (rel. March 27, 2013).

Background

NECA's announcement proposed a rate increase of 2.4921% to intrastate/interstate switched access rates effective July 1, 2024. Issuing carriers must match the increase in terminating access rates by the same date.

The Company filed the NECA proposed rates prior to FCC approval. Should the proposed NECA rates change, the Company will file adjusted rates to match the approved FCC NECA rates.

Discussion

The Division reviewed the redlined version of the tariff sheets submitted with the Company's filing. The proposed rates have been adjusted according to the announced NECA rate increase of April 8, 2024.

Bear Lake is requesting an increase on 20 Local Transport–LTR rates per month as follows:

- Entrance Facility: Voice Grade Two Wire - \$1.19
- Entrance Facility: Voice Grade Four Wire - \$1.90
- Entrance Facility: High Capacity DS1 - \$5.80
- Entrance Facility: High Capacity DS3 - \$52.99
- Entrance Facility: Optical OC3 - \$54.03
- Entrance Facility: Optical Channel OC12 - \$57.69
- Direct Trunked Transport Direct Trunked Facility: Voice Grade - \$.08
- Direct Trunked Transport Direct Trunked Facility: High Capacity DS1 - \$.40
- Direct Trunked Transport Direct Trunked Facility: High Capacity DS3 - \$3.46
- Direct Trunked Transport Direct Trunked Facility: Optical Channel OC3 - \$3.71
- Direct Trunked Transport Direct Trunked Facility: Optical Channel OC12 - \$4.65
- Direct Trunked Termination: Voice Grade - \$.85
- Direct Trunked Termination: High Capacity DS1 - \$2.06
- Direct Trunked Termination: High Capacity DS3 - \$13.25
- Direct Trunked Termination: Optical Channel OC3 - \$13.79
- Direct Trunked Termination: Optical Channel OC12 - \$30.03
- Multiplexing: DS3 to DS1 - \$12.09
- Multiplexing: DS1 to Voice - \$4.67
- Tandem Switched Transport Tandem Switched Facility: Terminating All - \$.000011
- Tandem Switched Termination – All: Terminating - \$.000057

The Division reviewed and analyzed the impact on revenue due to the rate changes. Bear Lake is not using these “billing elements” unless needed so there is no revenue impact. The

Company is only creating placeholders. Overall, the Local Transport-LTR rate increased 2.4921% as per NECA's announcement.

Conclusion

The Division reviewed Bear Lake's filing and had no concerns with the proposed revisions. The Division recommends the Commission approve the filing as submitted, effective July 1, 2024, as requested.

cc: Ryan Denzel, JSI
Chad Wray, Bear Lake Communications
Bawb Nielsen, Bear Lake Communications