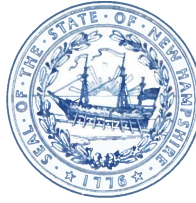


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June 5, 2018

Re: DT 18-070, 2018 Intrastate Access Rate Tariff Filings by Telephone Utilities

To All New Hampshire Telephone Utilities:

On April 25, 2018, Commission Staff filed a memorandum requesting that a docket be opened for the purpose of accepting intrastate access tariff filings made by excepted local exchange carriers (ELECs) in compliance with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding the Universal Service Fund and Inter-Carrier Compensation, in WC Docket Nos. 10-90, etc., FCC Release No 11-161, issued on November 18, 2011 (the Transformation Order). This will include filings made by incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs) that are ELECs. Staff further reported to the Commission that, as in previous years, a discrepancy between federal tariff filing timelines and New Hampshire tariff filing timelines could cause confusion regarding intrastate access filings. In particular, companies other than ILECs may file with the FCC interstate access tariff revisions, which affect the rates in intrastate tariffs, as late as July 15, 2018, to take effect no later than July 31, 2018.

Staff noted that this FCC filing timeline does not comport well with New Hampshire rules. Puc 1603.07(a) allows proposed tariff changes to become effective only after 30 days' notice to the Commission and the public, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission. Puc 1604.05(d) requires utilities to file written waiver requests for earlier effective dates. Staff also noted that the intrastate access rate reduction process has been a matter of public record since 2011, reducing concerns about sufficient notice for this expected set of filings. Staff recommended that the Commission waive the 30 days' notice requirement of Puc 1603.07(a) and the waiver request requirement of Puc 1604.05(d) for intrastate access tariff revision filings made by non-ILEC telephone utilities. Those waivers would allow ELECs that are not ILECs and the Commission to more closely follow the corresponding FCC process and timeline.

The Commission has accepted Staff's recommendation and granted the relevant rules waivers pursuant to Puc 201.05. Accordingly, for intrastate access tariff revisions by non-ILEC telephone utilities filed prior to July 15, 2018, the Commission has waived Puc 1603.07(a) so that such tariff revisions may take effect on July 31, 2018, even when that date is less than 30 days after the filing is made, and the Commission has also waived Puc 1604.05(d), thereby allowing non-ILECs to make such filings with proposed effective dates less than 30 days after filing without submitting a waiver request.

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All telephone utilities are advised to make their 2018 intrastate access tariff filings in the above-referenced docket.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debra A. Howland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Debra" being more prominent.

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

cc: Docket File
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