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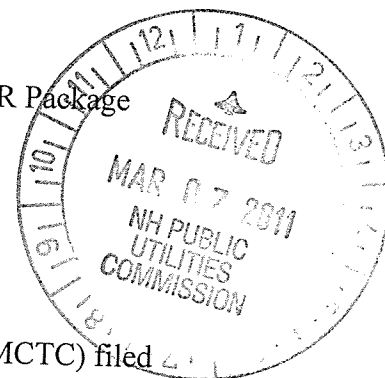
DATE: March 7, 2011

AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

FROM: Jennifer Ducharme, Utility Analyst 

SUBJECT: DT 11-030, Merrimack County Telephone Company
Tariff filing to Remove DSL Requirement from 3STAR Package

TO: Commissioners
Debra Howland, Executive Director
Kate Bailey, Director, Telecommunications



On February 18, 2011, Merrimack County Telephone Company (MCTC) filed revised tariff pages to NH PUC Tariff No. 9, removing the requirement that 3STAR package customers must subscribe to TDS high speed data services. MCTC stated that this revision is to take effect on March 21, 2011.

The STAR packages are optional service bundles, which were previously approved by the Commission. Each package permits a customer to receive services and features at a flat monthly rate. The 3STAR package includes a residential one-party line, caller ID deluxe, call waiting/cancel call waiting, call forwarding and preferred call forwarding. The 3STAR package was approved at a monthly rate of \$24.99 per line, with a requirement that customers who subscribed to this service must also subscribe to TDS high speed data services, at an additional cost. The revision proposed by MCTC removes this requirement.

MCTC stated that although removing the DSL requirement from this package may make the package more attractive to customers, the revenue impact would be minimal. MCTC also stated that there is no cost associated with making this change.

Staff previously reviewed the rates and cost support for the 3STAR bundles in NH PUC Docket No. DT 08-171 and DT 10-088. This revision removes a requirement which has no effect on the price/floor analysis previously conducted by Staff. Therefore, Staff recommends that this tariff filing be allowed to go into effect as submitted.