

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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June 15, 2016

Re: DT 16-645, Intrastate Access Rate Tariff Filings by Telephone Utilities, 2016

To All New Hampshire Telephone Utilities:

On June 13, 2016, Commission Staff reported to the Commission that – as in 2014 and 2015 – 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 Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (ILECs) may file interstate access tariff revisions with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as late as July 15, 2016, to take effect no later than July 31, 2016. 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.

In its report, Staff 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 therefore 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. (Companies that are not telephone utilities under New Hampshire law do not file access tariffs with the state.) This will allow non-ILECs and the Commission to more closely follow the corresponding FCC process and timeline.

The Commission has accepted Staff's recommendation. Accordingly, for intrastate access tariff revisions by non-ILEC telephone utilities filed prior to July 15, 2016, the Commission has waived Puc 1603.07(a) so that such tariff revisions may take effect on July 31, 2016, even when that date is less than 30 days after the filing is made. The Commission 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Debra A. Howland", written over a horizontal line.

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

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