



**OREGON PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE**

DATE: December 18, 2014

TO: File through Bruce Hellebuyck 

FROM: Stephanie Yamada 

SUBJECT: Asotin Telephone Company, Advice No. 109
Proposes to decrease the rate for the Residential Service Protection
Fund surcharge

I have reviewed this filing and recommend that an acknowledgement letter be sent. The filing will go into effect on January 1, 2015, and was filed on December 16, 2014. The company proposes to decrease the rate for the Residential Service Protection Fund (RSPF) surcharge from \$0.11 per line to \$0.09 per line. This filing was made in order to comply with Oregon PUC Order No. 14-421 (issued December 4, 2014).

Under Oregon Law, the Commission must review the RSPF surcharge amount once each year to ensure the fund is adequate and the balance does not exceed six months of projected expenses. Chapter 290, Oregon Laws 1987, Section 7(1) allows for a monthly surcharge to be assessed on each subscriber line, not to exceed \$.35 per line. The purpose of the surcharge is to provide revenue for three programs: Telecommunication Devices Access Program (TDAP), Oregon Telephone Assistance Program (OTAP) and Oregon Telecommunications Relay Service (OTRS). The current RSPF surcharge is \$.11 per line, and has been at this rate since January 1, 2014.

The TDAP program was developed by state law. The program purchases and loans special telecommunication devices at no cost to Oregonians who are deaf, hearing and/or speech impaired, or have other severe physical and mobility impairments that would prevent them from using a standard telephone.

The OTAP program, also by state law, provides a reduction of \$12.75 per month for basic telephone service for low- income customers who meet eligibility requirements.

The OTRS program is mandated by federal law. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) requires that the 26 million persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, speech or mobility impaired have access to the nation's telephone system through a relay service that is functionally equivalent in cost and quality to the service afforded an individual with no impairments.

This filing will have a negligible effect on annual revenues.