



**OREGON PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
(INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE)**

**DATE:** April 22, 2015

**TO:** File through Bruce Hellebuyck 

**FROM:** Jim Stanage 

**SUBJECT:** Asotin Telephone Company, Advice No. 112  
Increases the rate for Directory Assistance and National Directory Assistance, eliminates the current free Directory Assistance calls, and deletes International Directory Assistance

I have reviewed this filing and recommend that an acknowledgement letter be sent. The filing will go into effect on May 1, 2015. It was filed on March 17, 2015. The filing proposes to increase the rate for Directory Assistance and National Directory Assistance, eliminates the current two free Directory Assistance calls per month, and deletes International Directory Assistance service. The company states that it has notified its customers and has provided a copy of the notice to the Commission at the same time that it was sent to the customers in compliance with OAR 860-034-0310. The customer notice was sent to customers and the Commission March 17, 2015.

The rates that would be increased are as follows:

<u>Service</u>	<u>Current Rate</u>	<u>Proposed Rate</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Local First Two Calls	\$0.00	\$1.20	\$1.20	-
Local Calls After First Two	\$0.60	\$1.20	\$0.60	100%
National	\$0.95	\$1.20	\$0.25	26%
International	\$1.50	eliminated	Not Applicable	

The filing complies with ORS 759.175, which requires telecommunications utilities to submit tariff filings to the Commission whenever it intends to change its rates, terms, or conditions of service. The filing is exempt under ORS 759.040 from the requirement under ORS 759.190 that tariff filings to be made at least thirty days prior to their effective dates. However, under ORS 759.040(7), the company is required to provide notice to its "affected customers" at least 45 days prior to the effective date of any rate increases. The company states that it has notified its customers in compliance with the statute.

The company's customers have the right to petition the Commission requesting an investigation of any proposed rate increases under ORS 759.040 (6). Such a petition must be "Filed with the commission not less than 10 days prior to the proposed effective date of new or revised tariff schedules," as specified in ORS 759.040 (6)(a). The deadline for sending the petition(s) to the Commission was April 21, 2015. No customers petitioned the Commission in opposition to the rate increase. The Commission would have had to have received petitions from seven customers to have triggered a rate investigation under the statute. Therefore, this filing can take effect on its proposed effective date, May 1, 2015.

This filing also eliminates International Directory Assistance service, which is a per-call service, and therefore, has no subscribers. In addition, the company reports that it had no usage of the service during the past 12 months, and therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that there are no current customers for this service. Under OAR 860-032-0020(8) "a telecommunications utility may request to abandon a regulated service for which there are no current customers by filing a tariff change which deletes the regulated service..." Also, the company continues to provide Directory Assistance service, which staff views as a substitute. Under OAR 860-032-0020(3)(b) if "a substantially similar service" can be substituted for a tariffed service that a telecommunications utility proposes to eliminate, then it is not necessary for the company to have an abandonment petition approved by the Commission prior to eliminating the service.

The company estimates that this filing will increase annual gross revenues by a negligible amount.