

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: September 22, 2015

REGULAR _____ CONSENT X EFFECTIVE DATE September 23, 2015

DATE: September 10, 2015

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Jim Stange *JS*

THROUGH: Jason Eisdorfer, Bryan Conway, and Bruce Hellebuyck *BE*

SUBJECT: FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS NORTHWEST INC.:
(Docket No. ADV 99/Advice No. 1045) Establishes a new package, Frontier OneVoice Bundled Service, and requests waiver of statutory notice.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the filed tariff be allowed to go into effect.

DISCUSSION:

Frontier Communications Northwest Inc. (Frontier) proposes to establish a new package for business customers, Frontier OneVoice Bundled Service. The proposed bundle includes one flat rate business access line, a group of standard custom calling features, Voice-mail¹, flat rate Extended Area Service (EAS)², and a group of optional add-on features.

The proposed monthly rate for the OneVoice Bundled Service is \$44.99, and the group of optional add-on features would have a monthly rate of \$9.99. The company also proposes a monthly rate for the OneVoice Bundled Service of \$29.99 when it is subscribed under a term agreement of one, two, or three years.

Staff has reviewed the filing and determined that each of the regulated component services in this bundle may be purchased separately in the company's tariff. The price of the bundle does not exceed the sum of the tariff rates for the bundle's regulated

¹ Voice-mail is a deregulated service, which was deregulated in PUC Order No. 96-257 (Docket UX 17).
² The monthly business flat rate EAS charges range from \$1.90 to \$8.60.

component services, which complies with the Commission's policy on packages and bundles.

The company submitted an analysis that shows the proposed rates cover their respective long-run, incremental costs (LRIC) for the proposed bundle's regulated services.

The filing was submitted on September 10, 2015, which is less than 30 days prior to the effective date. Frontier Price Plan, Section Q, requires tariff filings to be made at least thirty days prior to their effective dates. The company has filed a request for a waiver of the statutory notice requirement so that the tariff filing can be allowed to go into effect with less than the statutory notice of 30 days (i.e., a request sometimes referred to as an LSN). However, ORS 759.190, which requires tariff filings to be made at least 30 days prior to their effective dates, does not apply to ORS 759.255 regulated utilities. Nevertheless, the company's advice letter recognizes the importance of making timely tariff filings, and in these circumstances, staff recommends that the Commission allow this filing.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Frontier Advice No. 1045 be allowed to go into effect.