

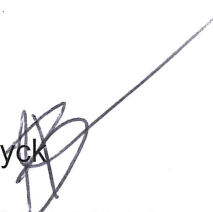
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: September 27, 2016

REGULAR _____ CONSENT X EFFECTIVE DATE October 2, 2016

DATE: September 14, 2016

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Stephen Hayes 

THROUGH: Jason Eisdorfer, Bryan Conway, and Bruce Hellebuyck 

SUBJECT: UNITED TELEPHONE COMPANY: (Docket No. ADV 376/Advice No. 16-05) Revises language in compliance with the Federal Universal Service Order (FCC Docket No. 96-45, FCC 97-157).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Commission allow United Telephone Company of the Northwest d/b/a CenturyLink's (United) Advice Filing No. 16-05, revising language in compliance with the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Universal Service Order regarding E-rate services, to go into effect on October 2, 2016.

Issue

Whether United's Advice Filing No. 16-05 establishes language in its OR PUC Tariff No. 4 in compliance with the FCC's Universal Service Order such that the Commission should approve it.

Applicable Law

ORS 759.255 authorizes the Commission to allow a telecommunications utility to provide service under an alternative form of regulation (what is commonly referred to as a "Price Plan"). United currently provides service under a price plan the Commission approved in its Order No. 14-347. Section P of the Price Plan requires United to file a tariff that proposes to change rates, terms or conditions of service at least 30 days prior to its effective date.

The FCC Universal Service Order (FCC Order) establishes a Universal Service Support Mechanism designed to ensure affordable telecommunications service to all citizens, including low-income consumers and eligible schools and libraries. See FCC Docket 96-45, FCC 97-157). The support provided through the FCC Order to schools, libraries and consortia (customers) is generally referred to as the E-Rate Program.

Discussion and Analysis

On September 2, 2016, United filed its Advice Filing No. 16-05, which updates language to its Oregon P.U.C. No. 4 Tariff to be effective October 2, 2016. The filing thus provides the 30 days' notice required by the Section P of the Price Plan.

Pursuant to FCC Docket No. 96-45, FCC 97-157 (Universal Service Order), schools, libraries and consortia may be eligible for reduced rates funded by the federal USF.

United is complying with changes promulgated by the FCC in the First and Second E-Rate Modernization Orders. First, United is adding consortia to the allowable E-Rate beneficiaries which the FCC added in Order No. 14-99. Second, United is adding the ability to use discount percentages as provided by FCC Order No. 14-189.

Conclusion

Staff has reviewed the Company's filing and concludes that its proposed language updates are in compliance with the FCC Order, and its applicable rules related to the E-rate Program.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Allow United's Advice Filing No. 16-05 tariff filing to go into effect as of October 2, 2016.

United.09272016.E-RateCompliance