

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: October 25, 2016

REGULAR _____ CONSENT X EFFECTIVE DATE October 31, 2016

DATE: October 12, 2016

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Malia Brock MB

THROUGH: Jason Eisdorfer, Bryan Conway, and Bruce Hellebuyck

SUBJECT: FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS NORTHWEST INC:
(Docket No. ADV 378/Advice No. 1049) Renames and restructures nonrecurring charges to standardize both text and installation charges and adds a three month installment billing option for customers.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

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

DISCUSSION:

Issue

Whether to allow Frontier Communications Northwest Inc.'s (Frontier) proposal to rename and restructure charges associated with service orders to better reflect service order work required and add an installment billing option for customers. The company states that the purpose of this filing is to standardize and rename nonrecurring charges associated with service orders.

Applicable Law

Telecommunications utilities are required under ORS 759.175 to submit tariff filings to the Commission whenever they intend to change their rates, terms, or conditions of service. On August 18, 2014, the Commission issued Order No. 14-290, in Docket No. 1677, approving a Price Plan for Frontier pursuant of ORS 759.255. Section Q of Frontier's Price Plan requires tariff filings to be made at least 30 days prior to their effective dates.

Further, Section B.1.a. of the Price Plan states: "Nonrecurring charges for residential and business primary line basic service. Charges remain at pre-Plan rates."

Analysis

This filing was submitted on September 6, 2016, with a proposed effective date of October 31, 2016, and thus, complies with Section Q of the Price Plan.

Although the company is changing the structure of their rates, customers would not experience a rate increase because of the proposed changes. Therefore, the filing is consistent with Section B.1.a of the Price Plan.

This proposed restructure of charges allows the company to align the work required to the charges billed. The proposed Access Line Work Charge would be charged only when a technician is dispatched to complete an initial service order; this represents a savings to customers when this work is not required.

The proposed text specific changes for this filing are outlined below:

<u>Current Name</u>	<u>Proposed Name</u>
Nonrecurring Charge	Service Order Charge

Frontier proposes to rename Nonrecurring Charge to Service Order Charge and restructure the initial service order charge for business and residential services.

The proposed restructure of installation charges is outlined below:

<u>Current Business Rate</u>	<u>Proposed Business Rate</u>
Nonrecurring Charge-\$40.00	Service Order Charge-\$20.00
	Central Office Connection Charge-\$15.00
	Access Line Work Charge-\$5.00

<u>Current Residential Rate</u>	<u>Proposed Residential Rate</u>
Nonrecurring Charge-\$30.00	Service Order Charge-\$15.00
	Central Office Connection Charge-\$10.00
	Access Line Work Charge-\$5.00

Conclusion

The proposed rate restructure complies with the above described requirements and Frontier's Price Plan.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Allow Frontier Advice No. 1049 to go into effect.