

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: July 21, 2015

REGULAR _____ CONSENT X EFFECTIVE DATE July 23, 2015

DATE: July 8, 2015

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Stephanie Yamada 

THROUGH: Jason Eisdorfer, Bryan Conway, and Bruce Hellebu 

SUBJECT: UNITED TELEPHONE COMPANY OF THE NORTHWEST: (Docket No. ADV 60/Advice No. OR 15-04) Increases the Non-Telecom Services Surcharge associated with voicemail service in the Home Phone II package.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

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

DISCUSSION:

United Telephone Company of the Northwest dba CenturyLink (United) proposes to increase the Non-Telecom Services Surcharge in the Home Phone II package by \$1.00, from \$1.99 to \$2.99. The Non-Telecom Services Surcharge applies in conjunction with the company's voicemail service, which is a deregulated service that is included in the Home Phone II package. Because voicemail is included in the regulated package, it must be shown as such in the tariff along with a notation regarding its deregulated status.

United first introduced the Non-Telecom Services Surcharge in June of 2013 with Advice No. 13-004. The company shows the Non-Telecom Services Surcharge in the tariff as an additional charge for voicemail rather than simply increasing the overall price of the package by \$2.99. This is because customers are not required to take the voicemail feature when subscribing to Home Phone II. Customers who ask the company to remove voicemail service from their package would not be charged the additional \$2.99.

United OR15-04
July 8, 2015
Page 2

This filing was made pursuant to the price plan that the Commission approved in Order No. 14-347, effective October 7, 2014. Under the price plan, United is required to file tariff changes with the Commission at least 30 days prior to a filing's effective date. This filing was originally submitted on June 23, 2015, with an effective date of July 17, 2015. However, at the request of staff, the effective date was later changed to July 23, 2015, in order to comply with the 30-day notice requirement in the price plan.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

The United tariff proposed in Advice No. OR15-04 be allowed to go into effect.

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