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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

May 17, 2018

NOTICE OF REQUIRED ACCESS TARIFF FILINGS

To: All Maryland Regulated Facilities-Based Local Exchange Carriers with Approved Maryland Intrastate Access Tariffs

By Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) Order # FCC 11-161, dated December 29, 2011, the FCC established a framework to convert tariff charges for switched access to a bill-and-keep methodology. A portion of the Order was devoted to the implementation and phase-in of tariffed charges to this new scheme. As part of that phase-in, the FCC required that companies properly and legally implement new rates through an FCC-sanctioned method. Tariff filings were deemed an appropriate method to bring charges into compliance with the FCC Order and were to be filed through appropriate state tariffing mechanisms.

The FCC further provided a schedule by which the phase-in would occur. Effective July 1, 2018, incumbent local exchange carriers (“ILECs”) must remove charges for terminating tandem-switched transport rates for terminating traffic traversing a tandem switch that the terminating carrier or its affiliates own. Pursuant to C.F.R. 47§51.905, the reduction in access rates must be approved by the Maryland Public Service Commission by July 1, 2018. In order to ensure that the tariff filing can be approved on time, the Commission is directing ILECs to file the appropriate tariff revisions no later than June 15, 2018. The FCC benchmark rule provision allows competitive local exchange carriers (“CLECs”) that benchmark their rates to underlying local exchange carriers’ rates additional time to file proposed tariff revisions. These CLECs are permitted to make their rates effective not later than July 31, 2018, and CLECs with tandem-switched access rates are directed to file proposed tariff revisions by July 1, 2018.

Failure to comply with this mandate will result in your company being out of compliance with both the FCC Order and applicable provisions of the Maryland Annotated Code, Public Utilities. If appropriate tariffs, consistent with federal and state law, are not filed by the deadlines set forth in this letter, the Commission may be unable to accept your tariff revision with an effective date of July 1, 2018 (or July 31, 2018 for CLECs). You will not be permitted to lawfully charge for intrastate access traffic until such time as the Commission approves the appropriate tariff

revisions.

If you have any questions about these requirements, please contact Jason Cross at (410) 767-8007. Tariff filings should be addressed to David J. Collins, Executive Secretary, Maryland Public Service Commission, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, 16th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202.

By Direction of the Commission,

/s/ David J. Collins

David J. Collins
Executive Secretary