

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Application of Wabash)	Case No.16-1814-TP-ATA
Telephone Company to revise miscellaneous)	90-5044-TP-TRF
charges)	
)	

**REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION
SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE STAFF OF
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

On August 31, 2016, Wabash Telephone Company (Applicant) filed this ATA seeking to revise its BLES tariff. The Applicant is proposing to remove the non-recurring intraLata presubscription change charge and increase the premise visit trip charge and per hour labor rate.

Rule 14(H)(2), as codified in 4901:1-6-14(H)(2) of the Administrative Code, states that a standard of reasonableness will be applied to these charges including, but not limited to, a comparison with similar charges previously approved by the Commission and similar charges assessed by other providers. Lastly, rule 14(H)(2) requires that a customer notice be filed in accordance with rule 4901:1-6-07. The Commission has approved language in LEC tariffs that allow a LEC to charge customers for premise visits to identify a service interruption if the interruption is due to the customer's equipment and the customer has a network interface device (NID) in place. A NID is a device that a customer can use to test for service problems to determine if the interruption is due to their own equipment and/or inside wiring. Pursuant to rule 16(B)(3)-(B)(5), s codified in 4901:1-6-16(B), a LEC has an obligation to inform a customer calling to report a service problem to utilize the NID or risk a service fee and to disclose the amount of the fee. In addition rule 16(B)(4) states if there is not a NID in place the LEC is required to visit the customer premise at no charge to diagnose service problem even if it is determined that the service problem is a result of the customer's equipment or inside wiring. As such, Staff does not find the Applicant's proposed increase to its existing premise visit trip charge and per hour labor rate unreasonable since it is a charge that is avoidable by the customer if there is a NID in place and must be done at no charge is there is no NID in place. Staff also finds does not find the Applicant's proposal to eliminate its non-recurring intraLata presubscription change charge unreasonable.

Lastly, rule 14(H)(2) requires that a customer notice be filed in accordance with rule 4901:1-6-07. The customer notice the Applicant filed with this application is in compliance with all the requirements set forth in rule 7. However, no customer notice was necessary since the Applicant is required to disclose the amount of the fee when a customer calls to report a service problem.

The Staff reviewed all documents and exhibits filed on August 31, 2016; and in conclusion, the Staff review found that the application is reasonable. Therefore, Staff recommends that the Applicant's application for tariff amendment (ATA) be approved.

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Summary: Staff Review and Recommendation electronically filed by Jason Well on behalf of PUCO Staff