BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Application of Vanlue)
Telephone Company to Change Late)
Payment Charge to Flat Rate)   Case No. 19-1791-TP-ATA
)

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

On October 7, 2019, Vanlue Telephone Company (Vanlue) filed an application seeking to revise its P.U.C.O. No. 7 Basic Local Exchange Services tariff to change its residential late payment fee from 1.5% of the unpaid balance to a flat rate of $10.00. The late fee does not apply to any portion of the bill that is in bona fide dispute, to any previous late payment fees or to service establishment charges for lifeline services. Customers will be granted a one-time waiver of the late payment fee if they sign up for electronic payments.

This application is being filed pursuant to Section 4901:1-6-14 of the Ohio Administrative Code as adopted in Case No. 14-1554-TP-ORD. O.A.C 4901:1-6-14(I) requires the filing of an ATA application to introduce or increase late payment fees. Pursuant to Section 4901:1-6-14(I) O.A.C. the application is deemed approved 30 days after filing unless suspended. A standard of reasonableness applies to late payment charges including, but not limited to, a comparison with similar charges previously approved by the commission and similar charges assessed by non-regulated providers. Customer notice was sent in accordance with rule 4901:1-6-07 of the O.A.C. The staff has reviewed all documents filed with the application and has determined that the application has satisfied the requirement set forth in the rule. As such, Staff recommends the application be automatically approved on November 6, 2019 with an effective date of November 7, 2019.

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