

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
TELECOMMUNICATIONS FILING FORM
(Effective: 9-2-2015)

This form is intended to be used with most types of required filings. It provides check boxes with rule references for the most common types of filings. It does not replace or supersede Commission rules in any way.

In the Matter of the Application of Benton Ridge Telephone Company

to Increase its BLES Rates and Related Maximum Rates

) TRF Docket No. 90 - 5007-TP-TRF

) Case No. 17 - 0795 - **TP - ZTA**

) **NOTE: Unless you have reserved a Case #, leave the**
) **"Case No" fields BLANK.**

Name of Registrant(s) Benton Ridge Telephone Company
DBA(s) of Registrant(s) _____
Address of Registrant(s) 1805 N Dixie Hwy, Lima, OH 45801-3255
Company Web Address www.brtelco.com
Regulatory Contact Person(s) Mark Miller, Treasurer & CFO Phone 419-859-2144 Fax 419-859-2150
Regulatory Contact Person's Email Address mmiller@watchtv.net
Contact Person for Annual Report Megan Schulte, Controller Phone 419-859-2144
Address (if different from above) _____
Consumer Contact Information Ken Williams, President & CEO Phone 419-859-2144
Address (if different from above) _____

Motion for protective order included with filing? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Motion for waiver(s) filed affecting this case? ☐ Yes ☒ No [Note: Waivers may toll any automatic timeframe.]

Notes:

Section I and II are Pursuant to Chapter [4901:1-6](#) OAC.

Section III – Carrier to Carrier is Pursuant to [4901:1-7](#) OAC, and Wireless is Pursuant to [4901:1-6-24](#) OAC.

Section IV – Attestation.

(1) Indicate the Carrier Type and the reason for submitting this form by checking the boxes below.

(2) For requirements for various applications, see the identified section of Ohio Administrative Code Section 4901 and/or the supplemental application form noted.

(3) Information regarding the number of copies required by the Commission may be obtained from the Commission's web site at www.puco.ohio.gov under the docketing information system section, by calling the docketing division at 614-466-4095, or by visiting the docketing division at the offices of the Commission.

(4) An Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC) offering basic local exchange service (BLES) outside its traditional service area should choose CLEC designation when proposing to offer BLES outside its traditional service area or when proposing to make changes to that service.

All Filings that result in a change to one or more tariff pages require, at a minimum, the following exhibits:

Exhibit	Description:
A	The tariff pages subject to the proposed change(s) as they exist before the change(s)
B	The Tariff pages subject to the proposed change(s), reflecting the change, with the change(s) marked in the right margin.
C	A short description of the nature of the change(s), the intent of the change(s), and the customers affected.
D	A copy of the notice provided to customers, along with an affidavit that the notice was provided according to the applicable rule(s).

Section I – Part I - Common Filings

Carrier Type <input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain below)	For Profit ILEC	Not For Profit ILEC	CLEC
Change terms & conditions of existing BLES	<input type="checkbox"/> ATA 1-6-14(H) (Auto 30 days)	<input type="checkbox"/> ATA 1-6-14(H) (Auto 30 days)	<input type="checkbox"/> ATA 1-6-14(H) (Auto 30 days)
Introduce non-recurring charge, surcharge, or fee to BLES			<input type="checkbox"/> ATA 1-6-14(H) (Auto 30 days)
Introduce or Increase Late Payment	<input type="checkbox"/> ATA 1-6-14(I) (Auto 30 days)	<input type="checkbox"/> ATA 1-6-14(I) (Auto 30 days)	<input type="checkbox"/> ATA 1-6-14(I) (Auto 30 days)
Revisions to BLES Cap.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ZTA 1-6-14(F) (0 day Notice)		
Introduce BLES or expand local service area (calling area)	<input type="checkbox"/> ZTA 1-6-14(H) (0 day Notice)	<input type="checkbox"/> ZTA 1-6-14(H) (0 day Notice)	<input type="checkbox"/> ZTA 1-6-14(H) (0 day Notice)
Notice of no obligation to construct facilities and provide BLES	<input type="checkbox"/> ZTA 1-6-27(C) (0 day Notice)	<input type="checkbox"/> ZTA 1-6-27(C) (0 day Notice)	
Change BLES Rates	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRF 1-6-14(F) (0 day Notice)	<input type="checkbox"/> TRF 1-6-14(F)(4) (0 day Notice)	<input type="checkbox"/> TRF 1-6-14(G) (0 day Notice)
To obtain BLES pricing flexibility	<input type="checkbox"/> BLS 1-6-14(C)(1)(c) (Auto 30 days)		
Change in boundary	<input type="checkbox"/> ACB 1-6-32 (Auto 14 days)	<input type="checkbox"/> ACB 1-6-32 (Auto 14 days)	
Expand service operation area			<input type="checkbox"/> TRF 1-6-08(G) (0 day)
BLES withdrawal			<input type="checkbox"/> ZTA 1-6-25(B) (0 day Notice)
Other* (explain)			

Section I – Part II – Customer Notification Offerings Pursuant to Chapter 4901:1-6-7 OAC

Type of Notice	Direct Mail	Bill Insert	Bill Notation	Electronic Mail
<input type="checkbox"/> 15-day Notice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 30-day Notice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Date Notice Sent: The bill notation will be part of the invoices which will be received by customers on April 1, 2017.				

Section I – Part III –IOS Offerings Pursuant to Chapter 4901:1-6-22 OAC

IOS	Introduce New	Tariff Change	Price Change	Withdraw
<input type="checkbox"/> IOS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Section II – Part I – Carrier Certification - Pursuant to Chapter 4901:1-6-08, 09 & 10 OAC

Certification	ILEC (Out of territory)	CLEC	Telecommunications Service Provider Not Offering Local	CESTC	CETC
* See Supplemental form	<input type="checkbox"/> ACE 1-6-08 * (Auto 30- day)	<input type="checkbox"/> ACE 1-6-08 * (Auto 30 day)	<input type="checkbox"/> ACE 1-6-08 * (Auto 30 day)	<input type="checkbox"/> ACE 1-6-10 (Auto 30 day)	<input type="checkbox"/> UNC 1-6-09 * (Non-Auto)

*Supplemental Certification forms can be found on the Commission Web Page.

Section II – Part II – Certificate Status & Procedural

Certificate Status	ILEC	CLEC	Telecommunications Service Provider Not Offering Local
Abandon all Services		<input type="checkbox"/> ABN 1-6-26 (Auto 30 days)	<input type="checkbox"/> ABN 1-6-26 (Auto 30 days)
Change of Official Name *	<input type="checkbox"/> ACN 1-6-29(B) (Auto 30 days)	<input type="checkbox"/> ACN 1-6-29(B) (Auto 30 days)	<input type="checkbox"/> CIO 1-6-29(C) (0 day Notice)
Change in Ownership *	<input type="checkbox"/> ACO 1-6-29(E) (Auto 30 days)	<input type="checkbox"/> ACO 1-6-29(E) (Auto 30 days)	<input type="checkbox"/> CIO 1-6-29(C) (0 day Notice)
Merger *	<input type="checkbox"/> AMT 1-6-29(E) (Auto 30 days)	<input type="checkbox"/> AMT 1-6-29(E) (Auto 30 days)	<input type="checkbox"/> CIO 1-6-29(C) (0 day Notice)
Transfer a Certificate *	<input type="checkbox"/> ATC 1-6-29(B) (Auto 30 days)	<input type="checkbox"/> ATC 1-6-29(B) (Auto 30 days)	<input type="checkbox"/> CIO 1-6-29(C) (0 day Notice)
Transaction for transfer or lease of property, plant or business *	<input type="checkbox"/> ATR 1-6-29(B) (Auto 30 days)	<input type="checkbox"/> ATR 1-6-29(B) (Auto 30 days)	<input type="checkbox"/> CIO 1-6-29(C) (0 day Notice)

* **Other exhibits may be required under the applicable rule(s).** ACN, ACO, AMT, ATR, ATC, and CIO applications see [the 4901:1-6-29 Filing Requirements on the Commission's Web Page](#) for a complete list of exhibits.

Section III – Carrier to Carrier (Pursuant to 4901:1-7), and Wireless (Pursuant to 4901:1-6-24)

Carrier to Carrier	ILEC	CLEC
Interconnection agreement, or amendment to an approved agreement	<input type="checkbox"/> NAG 1-7-07 (Auto 90 day)	<input type="checkbox"/> NAG 1-7-07 (Auto 90 day)
Request for Arbitration	<input type="checkbox"/> ARB 1-7-09 (Non-Auto)	<input type="checkbox"/> ARB 1-7-09 (Non-Auto)
Introduce or change c-t-c service tariffs,	<input type="checkbox"/> ATA 1-7-14 (Auto 30 days)	<input type="checkbox"/> ATA 1-7-14 (Auto 30 days)
Request rural carrier exemption, rural carrier suspension or modification	<input type="checkbox"/> UNC 1-7-04 or 05 (Non-Auto)	
Changes in rates, terms & conditions to Pole Attachment, Conduit Occupancy and Rights- of-Way.	<input type="checkbox"/> ATA 1-3-04 (Auto 30 days)	
Wireless Providers See 4901:1-6-24	<input type="checkbox"/> RCC [Registration & Change in Operations] (0 day)	<input type="checkbox"/> NAG [Interconnection Agreement or Amendment] (Auto 90 days)

Section IV. – Attestation

Registrant hereby attests to its compliance with pertinent entries and orders issued by the Commission.

AFFIDAVIT

Compliance with Commission Rules

I am an officer/agent of the applicant corporation, , and am authorized to make this statement on its behalf.

Martin L. Ellerbrock
(Name)

Please Check ALL that apply:

☒ I attest that these tariffs comply with all applicable rules for the state of Ohio. I understand that tariff notification filings do not imply Commission approval and that the Commission's rules as modified and clarified from time to time, supersede any contradictory provisions in our tariff. We will fully comply with the rules of the state of Ohio and understand that noncompliance can result in various penalties, including the suspension of our certificate to operate within the state of Ohio.

☐ I attest that customer notices accompanying this filing form were sent to affected customers, as specified in Section II, in accordance with Rule 4901:1-6-7, Ohio Administrative Code. See Exhibit D.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on
(Date)

March 21, 2017

at (Location) Lima, Ohio

*Signature and
Title

Martin L.
Ellerbrock

Digitally signed by Martin
L. Ellerbrock
Date: 2017.03.21 10:50:57
-04'00'

General Manager

Date March 21, 2017

**This affidavit is required for every tariff-affecting filing. It may be signed by counsel or an officer of the applicant, or an authorized agent of the applicant.*

VERIFICATION

I, , verify that I have utilized the Telecommunications Filing Form for most proceedings provided by the Commission and that all of the information submitted here, and all additional information submitted in connection with this case, is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

*Signature and
Title

Martin L.
Ellerbrock

Digitally signed by Martin
L. Ellerbrock
Date: 2017.03.21 10:51:21
-04'00'

General Manager

Date March 21, 2017

**Verification is required for every filing. It may be signed by counsel or an officer of the applicant, or an authorized agent of the applicant.*

File document electronically as directed in case number 06-900-AU-WVR

or

Send your completed Application Form, including all required attachments as well as the required number of copies, to:

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Attention: Docketing Division
180 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43215-3793

EXHIBIT A

Current Tariff Sheets

EXCHANGE RATES

BENTON RIDGE EXCHANGE

The rates hereunder entitle subscribers in the Benton Ridge Exchange to make calls, without additional charge, to the Gilboa, Mt. Cory and Pandora exchanges of Orwell Telephone Company dba Fairpoint Communications and the Findlay Exchange of Ohio Bell Telephone Company dba AT&T Ohio.

- A. Within the Base Rate Area, comprising the territory within the corporate limits of the Village of Benton Ridge as said corporate limits existed as of the date of this tariff sheet:

	<u>Monthly Rates</u>				<u>Anniversary Date</u>
	<u>Business</u>		<u>Residence</u>		
	<u>Current</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	
Individual access line, each	\$29.20	\$29.20	\$20.05	\$20.05	June 1, 2016

- B. Outside the Benton Ridge Exchange Base Rate Area, individual line business service will be furnished at the rates specified above plus a monthly mileage charge of 75 cents for each quarter mile or fraction thereof, air line measurement, between the Base Rate Area boundary and the subscriber's location.

NEW BAVARIA EXCHANGE

The rates hereunder entitle subscribers in the New Bavaria Exchange to make calls, without additional charge, to the Ayersville Exchange of Ayersville Telephone Company; the Miller City Exchange of Continental Telephone Company dba TDS; the North Creek Exchange of Benton Ridge Telephone Company; the Leipsic Exchange of Orwell Telephone Company dba Fairpoint Communications; and the Hamler and Holgate exchanges of United Telephone Company dba CenturyLink.

- A. Within the Base Rate Area, comprising the territory within the corporate limits of the Village of New Bavaria as said corporate limits existed as of the date of this tariff sheet:

	<u>Monthly Rates</u>				<u>Anniversary Date</u>
	<u>Business</u>		<u>Residence</u>		
	<u>Current</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	
Individual access line, each	\$29.20	\$29.20	\$20.05	\$20.05	June 1, 2016

- B. Outside the New Bavaria Exchange Base Rate Area, individual line business service will be furnished at the rates specified above plus a monthly mileage charge of 75 cents for each quarter mile or fraction thereof, air line measurement, between the Base Rate Area boundary and the subscriber's location.

EXCHANGE RATES (Continued)

NORTH CREEK EXCHANGE

The rates hereunder entitle subscribers in the North Creek Exchange to make calls, without additional charge, to the Continental and Miller City exchanges of Continental Telephone Company dba TDS; the New Bavaria Exchange of Benton Ridge Telephone Company and the Leipsic exchange of Orwell Telephone Company dba Fairpoint Communications.

- A. Within the Base Rate Area, comprising the town plat of the unincorporated Village of North Creek as said town plat existed as of the date of this tariff sheet:

	<u>Monthly Rates</u>				<u>Anniversary Date</u>
	<u>Business</u>		<u>Residence</u>		
	<u>Current</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	
Individual access line, each	\$29.20	\$29.20	\$20.05	\$20.05	June 1, 2016

- B. Outside the North Creek Exchange Base Rate Area, individual line business service will be furnished at the rates specified above plus a monthly mileage charge of 75 cents for each quarter mile or fraction thereof, air line measurement, between the Base Rate Area boundary and the subscriber's location.

EXHIBIT B

Proposed Tariff Sheets

EXCHANGE RATES

BENTON RIDGE EXCHANGE

The rates hereunder entitle subscribers in the Benton Ridge Exchange to make calls, without additional charge, to the Gilboa, Mt. Cory and Pandora exchanges of Orwell Telephone Company dba Fairpoint Communications and the Findlay Exchange of Ohio Bell Telephone Company dba AT&T Ohio.

- A. Within the Base Rate Area, comprising the territory within the corporate limits of the Village of Benton Ridge as said corporate limits existed as of the date of this tariff sheet:

	<u>Monthly Rates</u>				<u>Anniversary Date</u>
	<u>Business</u>		<u>Residence</u>		
	<u>Current</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	
Individual access line, each	\$30.45(I)	\$30.45(I)	\$21.30(I)	\$21.30(I)	June 1, 2017(C)

- B. Outside the Benton Ridge Exchange Base Rate Area, individual line business service will be furnished at the rates specified above plus a monthly mileage charge of \$0.35(R) for each quarter mile or fraction thereof, air line measurement, between the Base Rate Area boundary and the subscriber's location.

NEW BAVARIA EXCHANGE

The rates hereunder entitle subscribers in the New Bavaria Exchange to make calls, without additional charge, to the Ayersville Exchange of Ayersville Telephone Company; the Miller City Exchange of Continental Telephone Company dba TDS; the North Creek Exchange of Benton Ridge Telephone Company; the Leipsic Exchange of Orwell Telephone Company dba Fairpoint Communications; and the Hamler and Holgate exchanges of United Telephone Company dba CenturyLink.

- A. Within the Base Rate Area, comprising the territory within the corporate limits of the Village of New Bavaria as said corporate limits existed as of the date of this tariff sheet:

	<u>Monthly Rates</u>				<u>Anniversary Date</u>
	<u>Business</u>		<u>Residence</u>		
	<u>Current</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	
Individual access line, each	\$30.45(I)	\$30.45(I)	\$21.30(I)	\$21.30(I)	June 1, 2017(C)

- B. Outside the New Bavaria Exchange Base Rate Area, individual line business service will be furnished at the rates specified above plus a monthly mileage charge of \$0.35(R) for each quarter mile or fraction thereof, air line measurement, between the Base Rate Area boundary and the subscriber's location.

EXCHANGE RATES (Continued)

NORTH CREEK EXCHANGE

The rates hereunder entitle subscribers in the North Creek Exchange to make calls, without additional charge, to the Continental and Miller City exchanges of Continental Telephone Company dba TDS; the New Bavaria Exchange of Benton Ridge Telephone Company and the Leipsic exchange of Orwell Telephone Company dba Fairpoint Communications.

- A. Within the Base Rate Area, comprising the town plat of the unincorporated Village of North Creek as said town plat existed as of the date of this tariff sheet:

	<u>Monthly Rates</u>				<u>Anniversary Date</u>
	<u>Business</u>		<u>Residence</u>		
	<u>Current</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	
Individual access line, each	\$30.45(I)	\$29.20(I)	\$21.30(I)	\$21.30(I)	June 1, 2017(C)

- B. Outside the North Creek Exchange Base Rate Area, individual line business service will be furnished at the rates specified above plus a monthly mileage charge of \$0.35(R) for each quarter mile or fraction thereof, air line measurement, between the Base Rate Area boundary and the subscriber's location.

EXHIBIT C

Description of the Changes

In this filing, Benton Ridge Telephone Company increases its BLES rate and related maximum residential and business local rates by \$1.25 per month in its Benton Ridge, New Bavaria, and North Creek exchanges, effective June 1, 2017. The residential rate will increase from \$20.05 to \$21.30. The business rate will increase from \$29.20 to \$30.45. The business mileage rate for each quarter-mile outside the base rate area will decrease by \$0.40, from \$0.75 per quarter-mile to \$0.35 per quarter-mile. No other rates will change at this time.

Benton Ridge Telephone Company received BLES pricing flexibility, effective June 1, 2013, in Case No. 13-0998-TP-BLS. Its most recent increase in local rates was effective on June 1, 2016.

EXHIBIT D

Customer Notice and Affidavit

The following customer notice will appear on bills that are mailed to customers on April 1, 2017. This notice will also be sent to the Office of Ohio Consumers' Counsel (occtelco@occ.state.oh.us) and to the Commission (Telecomm-Rule07@puc.state.oh.us) no less than thirty days prior to the rate increase:

Effective June 1, 2017, our local telephone rate for residential customers will increase by \$1.25 per month, from \$20.05 to \$21.30. This increase is due to Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") rules. Many rural telephone companies, including ours, receive support from the Federal Universal Service Fund. The FCC's rules will reduce our support if our local rates are below the national average. This \$1.25 increase is required to bring our local rates more in line with the national average. Also, effective June 1, 2017, our local telephone rate for business customers will increase by \$1.25 per month, from \$29.20 to \$30.45, and our business mileage charge for each quarter-mile outside the base rate area will decrease by \$0.40, from \$0.75 to \$0.35. If you have any questions, please call our office at 611 or (419) 859-2144.

The following affidavit will be prepared and filed with the Commission after the customer notice is provided to customers on April 1, 2017:

I, _____, am an authorized agent of the applicant corporation, Benton Ridge Telephone Company, and am authorized to make this statement on its behalf. I attest that the customer notice accompanying this affidavit was sent to affected customers as a bill message on April 1, 2017, in accordance with Rule 4901:1-6-07, Ohio Administrative Code. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on: _____

At: Lima, Ohio

Signature: _____

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

3/21/2017 11:58:42 AM

in

Case No(s). 90-5007-TP-TRF, 17-0795-TP-ZTA

Summary: Application to Increase its BLES Rates and Related Maximum Rates electronically filed by Mr. Martin L Ellerbrock on behalf of Benton Ridge Telephone Company