

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Application of CenturyTel) Case No.19-2006-TP-ATA
of Ohio dba CenturyLink to modify its General)
Exchange Services Tariff P.U.C.O. Tariff No.) TRF No. 90-5010-TP-TRF
12)

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

On October 31, 2019, CenturyTel of Ohio dba CenturyLink (Applicant) filed an ATA seeking to revise its General Exchange Service Tariff P.U.C.O. No. 12. The Applicant proposes to revise its Lifeline Assistance Programs to comply with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) directives to begin reducing the monthly Lifeline discount credit.

On March 31, 2016, the FCC adopted its Third Report and Order, Further Report and Order, and Order on Reconsideration, FCC 16-38, *In the Matter of Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization* (WC Docket No. 11-42), *Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support* (WC Docket No. 09-197) and *Connect America Fund* (WC Docket. 10-90) which requires the monthly Lifeline discount credit of \$9.25 to be reflected as phased-in reductions effective December 1, 2019, when applied toward a qualifying voice service. The phased-in reductions are as follows:

<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Lifeline Discount</u>
Prior to December 1, 2019	\$9.25
December 1, 2019	\$7.25
December 1, 2020	\$5.25

The Applicant proposes to revise its monthly Lifeline discount credit by incorporating these reductions into its P.U.C.O. Tariff No. 12 as a statement of concurrence to its sister company, United Telephone Company of Ohio dba CenturyLink’s P.U.C.O. Tariff No. 5, Lifeline section.

Additionally, pursuant to 4901:1-6-07 O.A.C., customer notices were sent via bill message on November 1, 2019.

Therefore, pursuant to 4901:1-6-14(H)(2) O.A.C. of the Telephone Company Procedures and Standards, an application to make a material change in the terms and conditions of an existing basic local exchange service (BLES) by a local exchange carrier (LEC) must be filed as an ATA tariff amendment subject to the thirty-day automatic approval process. Staff reviewed all documents and exhibits filed with this application and finds them to be compliant with Commission rules. Thus, Staff has determined that the request to revise the Applicant's PUCO Tariff No. 12 appears to satisfy the Commission's requirements set forth in 4901:1-6-14 of the Administrative Code. Staff recommends that this application be approved on November 30, 2019 and made effective on December 1, 2019.

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