

# THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATIONS  
TO REVISE LOCAL SERVICE TARIFFS  
FILED BY:

ARCADIA TELEPHONE COMPANY,	CASE NO. 20-522-TP-ATA
CONTINENTAL TELEPHONE COMPANY,	CASE NO. 20-523-TP-ATA
LITTLE MIAMI COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION,	CASE NO. 20-524-TP-ATA
OAKWOOD TELEPHONE COMPANY, AND	CASE NO. 20-525-TP-ATA
VANLUE TELEPHONE COMPANY.	CASE NO. 20-526-TP-ATA

## FINDING AND ORDER

Entered in the Journal on April 22, 2020

### I. SUMMARY

{¶ 1} The Commission approves the applications in the above-captioned proceedings for revisions to local service tariffs by the applicant telephone companies.

### II. DISCUSSION

{¶ 2} R.C. 4927.125 provides that the rate, terms, and conditions for basic local exchange service and for installation and reconnection fees for basic local exchange service shall be tarified in the manner prescribed by rule adopted by the Commission.

{¶ 3} Applications were filed on March 16, 2020, in the above-captioned proceedings for revisions to local service tariffs charged by the applicants.

{¶ 4} Pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-6-05, an application filed under Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-6-14(I)(2) for amendment to a local service tariff shall be deemed

approved 30 days after the filing of the application, unless the Commission suspends such approval.

{¶ 5} On March 9, 2020, the governor signed Executive Order 2020-01D (Executive Order), declaring a state of emergency in Ohio to protect the well-being of Ohioans from the dangerous effects of COVID-19. As described in the Executive Order, state agencies are required to implement procedures consistent with recommendations from the Department of Health to prevent or alleviate the public health threat associated with COVID-19. Additionally, all citizens are urged to heed the advice of the Department of Health regarding this public health emergency in order to protect their health and safety. The Executive Order was effective immediately and will remain in effect until the COVID-19 emergency no longer exists.

{¶ 6} On March 16, 2020, an attorney examiner issued an Entry in Case No. 20-591-AU-UNC, directing that any time period prescribed by order, statute, or rule for the Commission to act upon a pending application or other filing should be tolled during the state of emergency and also during the 14 days thereafter, including the 30-day automatic approval process for certification applications to operate as a telephone company in the state of Ohio, as well as the 90-day period for the Commission to take action to approve or deny a suspended application. Further, the attorney examiner indicated that, during the declared emergency, Staff would continue to investigate pending applications and the Commission would act on such applications on a case-by-case basis. *In re the Proper Procedures and Process for the Commission's Operations and Proceedings during the Declared State of Emergency and Related Matters*, Case No. 20-591-AU-UNC, Entry (Mar. 16, 2020) at ¶ 5.

{¶ 7} The applications filed in the above-captioned proceedings were, thus, subject to the March 16, 2020 Entry and suspended from automatic approval during the state of emergency.

{¶ 8} Staff filed reports of its review of each application, indicating that the applicants satisfy the statutory requirements relating to revisions of local service tariffs, and

recommending that the applications be approved.

{¶ 9} The Commission, therefore, approves the applications to revise the local service tariffs, as such revisions are more particularly outlined in the applications and subsequent Staff recommendations.

### III. ORDER

{¶ 10} It is, therefore,

{¶ 11} ORDERED, That the applications filed in the above-captioned cases be approved. It is, further,

{¶ 12} ORDERED, That a copy of this Finding and Order be served upon all parties of record.

#### COMMISSIONERS:

##### *Approving:*

Sam Randazzo, Chairman  
M. Beth Trombold  
Daniel R. Conway  
Dennis P. Deters  
Lawrence K. Friedeman

DMH/kck

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**in**

**Case No(s). 20-0522-TP-ATA, 20-0523-TP-ATA, 20-0524-TP-ATA, 20-0525-TP-ATA, 20-0526-TP-ATA**

Summary: Finding & Order That the applications filed in the above-captioned cases be approved. electronically filed by Kelli C King on behalf of The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio