

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Application of QualStar)	Case No. 21-0231-TP-ATA
Communications, Inc. to Revise its Carrier)	
Access Tariff P.U.C.O Tariff No. 4.)	
)	

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

On March 10, 2021, QualStar Communications, Inc. (QualStar) filed this ATA seeking to revise its Intrastate Access Tariff P.U.C.O Tariff No 4. QualStar was granted Competitive Local Exchange Carrier (CLEC) authority on August 24, 2000 by Finding and Order under Case No. 00-612-TP-ACE. QualStar was later granted rural CLEC exemption which requires rural carriers to mirror the switched access rates found in the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA) Tariff FCC No. 5 (NECA Tariff).

QualStar's switched access rates concurred with the ICORE Tariff FCC No. 3 which mirrored the NECA Tariff. ICORE is a nationwide consulting company who assists Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (ILECs) and other telephone companies in navigating the regulatory and financial portions of the telecom industry. In addition, they provide carrier access billing services (CABS), tariff development, and make filings with the FCC and NECA.

ICORE filed a letter with the FCC on June 30, 2020, removing QualStar from its FCC No. 3 Tariff which also relinquishes its rural CLEC exemption. This application revises the intrastate carrier access tariff to decrease the switched access rates to zero because the cost of CABS outweighed the revenues received from the service.

Lastly, pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-6-07(A), customer notices were not necessary for this application because a notice is not required for a decrease in rates and the switched access service is not a retail service.

Therefore, pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-7-14(b), an application for a change in the intrastate switched access reciprocal compensation tariff by a LEC tariff amendment is 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 Intrastate Carrier Access Tariff P.U.C.O

Tariff No. 4 appears to satisfy the Commission's requirements set forth in Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-7-14. Staff recommends that this application be approved on April 9, 2021.

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Summary: Staff Review and Recommendation electronically filed by Mrs. Tanika Hawkins on behalf of PUCO Staff