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2004 MAY -3 AM 10:31

PUCO

May 3, 2004

Via Hand Delivery

Ms. Reneé J. Jenkins
Director of Administration
Secretary of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: In the Matter of the Application of The Benton Ridge Telephone Company to Increase its
Insufficient Fund Check Charge and to Add a Non-Recurring Charge to its Custom Calling Services;
PUCO Case No. 04-645-TP-ALI

Dear Ms. Jenkins:

Enclosed are an original and ten (10) copies of the Application of The Benton Ridge Telephone Company, to be filed in connection with the above-referenced matter.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Very truly yours,



Carolyn S. Flahive

Enclosure

This is to certify that the images appearing are an
accurate and complete reproduction of a case file
document delivered in the regular course of business.
Technician CW Date Processed 5/3/04

Carolyn.Flahive@ThompsonHine.com Fax 614.469.3361 Phone 614.469.3294

dij 416625.1

THOMPSON HINE LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

10 West Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3435

www.ThompsonHine.com
Phone 614.469.3200
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The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
TELECOMMUNICATIONS APPLICATION FORM
for

Automatic Cases for ILECs Not Subject to Alternative Regulation
(Effective May 19, 2003)

RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV
2004 MAY -3 AM 10:31

PUCO

In the Matter of the Application of The Benton Ridge Telephone)

Company to Increase its Insufficient Fund Check Charge and to) Case No. 04 -645 - TP - ALI

Add a Non-Recurring Charge to its Custom Calling Services)

Name of Company The Benton Ridge Telephone Company
Address of Company P.O. Box 180; 140 Main Street; Benton Ridge, Ohio 45816
Company Web Address _____
Regulatory Contact Person(s) Carolyn S. Flahive Phone (614) 469-3200 Fax (614) 469-3361
Regulatory Contact Person's Email Address Carolyn.Flahive@ThompsonHine.com
Date _____ TRF Docket No. 90 - 5007 -TP-TRF

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

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

NOTE: This form must accompany all automatic approval/notice applications filed by incumbent local exchange companies (ILECs) not subject to a qualifying alternative regulation plan when making an application pursuant to Case Nos. 84-944-TP-COI and 86-1144-TP-COI or 89-564-TP-COI.

I. Please indicate the reason for submitting this form (check one)

- ☐ 1 (AEC) Application For Approval Of A Customer Contract For Competitive Services
☐ a. Stand-Alone Contract (90-day approval, 7 copies)
☐ b. Pre-Approved Contract (0-day notice, 7 copies)
- ☐ 2 (ACO) ILEC Application for Change in Ownership Pursuant to 4905.402, Ohio Revised Code (30-day approval, 10 copies)
- ☒ 3 (ALI) Small, For-Profit, ILEC Application For A Limited Increase In Non-Basic Rates (60-day approval, 10 copies)
- ☐ 4 (ATA) Application For Tariff Amendment That Does Not Result In An Increase In Rates
☐ a. Large ILEC, Competitive Offerings Other Than Those Listed Under 5., Below (60-day approval, 7 copies)
☐ b. Small, for-profit ILECs (45-day approval, 10 copies)
- ☐ 5 (ZTA) Tariff Application Not For An Increase In Rates Involving Message Toll, Toll-Free Service, 900 And 900-Like Services, 500 Service, Calling Card, Prepaid Calling Card, Private Line, and Speed Dialing In Accordance With Waiver Granted in 99-563-TP-COI (5/11/2000 and 11/21/2002) (0-day notice, 7 copies)
- ☐ 6 (NFP) Small, not-for-profit ILEC tariff amendment
☐ a. Tariff Change Not Resulting In An Increase In Rates (0-day notice, 7 copies)
☐ b. Tariff Application Resulting In An Increase In Non-Basic Rates (45-day notice, 7 copies)
☐ c. Tariff Application Resulting In An Increase In Basic Rates (60-day notice, 10 copies)

THE FOLLOWING ARE TRF FILINGS ONLY, NOT NEW CASES (0-day notice, 3 copies)

- ☐ 7 Introduction or Extension of Promotional Offering (10-day notice, 3 copies)
☐ 8 New Price List Rate Within an Approved Rate Range for Existing Competitive Service

II. The following exhibits corresponding to the list of cases above, at a minimum, are required to be filed:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3, 4, 5, 6	Current Tariff Sheets (to be superseded), if applicable
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3, 4, 5, 6	Proposed Tariff Sheets
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Rationale or Explanation for Change
<input type="checkbox"/>	1.a., 4.a.	Justification for Competitive Treatment
<input type="checkbox"/>	1.a., 4.a.	Cost support for non-MTS service
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8	Customer Notice to customers affected by proposal, and statement as to the form and timing of the notice
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Copy of Contract

- III. Applicant is filing this application under the regulatory requirements established by the Commission in Case No. 89-564-TP-COI.
- IV. Applicant respectfully requests the Commission to permit the filing of the proposed tariff sheets, to become effective on the date shown on the proposed tariff sheets (which is a date no earlier than the day after the applicable automatic approval date), modified by any further revisions that have become effective prior to the effective date of the proposed schedule sheets.

Respectfully submitted,

THE BENTON RIDGE TELEPHONE COMPANY

By: Carolyn S. Flahive
Thomas E. Lodge (0015741)
Carolyn S. Flahive (0072404)
THOMPSON HINE LLP
10 West Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3435
614-469-3200

Its Attorneys

VERIFICATION

I verify that all of the information submitted herein, and all additional information submitted in connection with this case, is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Kimberly J. Stupp 3/26/04
*(Signature and Title) (Date)

*Verification is required for every filing, and need not be notarized except for Applications for a Limited Increase in Rates (ALIs). The verification may be signed by an officer of the applicant, its counsel, or an authorized agent of the applicant, except for ALIs. ALI applications must be signed by an officer of the company and be notarized.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 26 day of March, 2004.

Shelley Bishop
Notary Public, State of Ohio
My commission expires September 10, 2004

EXHIBIT A
(Superceded Tariff Sheets)

BENTON RIDGE TELEPHONE COMPANY
BENTON RIDGE, OHIO

SECTION 1
THIRD REVISED SHEET NO. 4
CANCELS SECOND REVISED
SHEET NO. 4

P.U.C.O. NO. 6
LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE TARIFFS

	<u>Business</u>	<u>Residence</u>	
Number change	12.00(4)	10.00(4)	←(D)
Restoral of service	14.00(4)	12.00(4)	
Move (off premise)	27.00(4)	25.00(4)	
Subsequent visits	20.00(4)	18.00(4)	
Non-published number change	12.00(4)	10.00(4)	
Service charge - insufficient fund check	5.00	5.00	

Customer owned equipment (See Section 5, Original Sheet No. 1)

Test Charge	30.00	30.00
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Miscellaneous

Fire phone service	15.00(4)
Payphone per local call	.25
Delayed payment	5¢ (5)

NOTE: Footnote explanations are as follows:

- (1) In addition to applicable access line rate.
- (2) Vacation rates: The applicable reduction in rate is equal to 50% of the total exchange access line, plus applicable service connection charges (See Section 2, Second Revised Sheet No. 2).

Issued: March 24, 1987

Effective: January 1, 1987

Issued by
DICK DENMAN, President
Benton Ridge, Ohio

Filed under authority of Order No. 86-927-TP-COI Entered: March 24, 1987
issued by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

BENTON RIDGE TELEPHONE COMPANY
BENTON RIDGE, OHIO

SECTION 1
THIRD REVISED SHEET NO. 5
CANCELS SECOND REVISED
SHEET NO. 5

P.U.C.O. NO. 6
LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE TARIFFS

- (3) The loaded labor wage rate associated with the above item will be billed at \$6.00 for each quarter hour. (D) (T)
- (4) Rate listed plus applicable service connection charges.
- (5) 5% of customer bill. If payment of all charges for service is not made monthly on or before 20 days after the billing date.

Issued: March 24, 1987

Effective: January 1, 1987

Issued by
DICK DENMAN, President
Benton Ridge, Ohio

Filed under authority of Order No. 86-927-TP-COI Entered: March 24, 1987
issued by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

P.U.C.O. NO. 6
GENERAL EXCHANGE SERVICE TARIFF

CUSTOM CALLING SERVICE (Continued)

1. Custom Calling Features

d. Speed Calling -- Short List

the list of eight (8) called numbers as often as desired. This service is available on push button telephone sets.

Monthly recurring charge\$1.00

e. Speed Calling -- Long List

This feature enables the customer to dial a two-digit code which will ring thirty (30) called numbers, both local and long distance. The customer can store a list of thirty (30) called numbers as often as desired. This service is available on push button telephone sets. A customer may choose between the Short List and Long List. Both cannot be used simultaneously on a single line.

Monthly recurring charge\$1.50

Call Forward -- Business

This service allows a customer's calls to be forwarded to a predetermined telephone number.

Monthly recurring charge\$3.95

Bronze Calling Package

(N)

This package includes Call Waiting, Call Forwarding, and Three-Way Calling. The Bronze Calling Package is available in all Company exchanges.

Monthly recurring charge\$3.99

(D)

2. The above Custom Calling rates apply to individual residence and business access lines, including Key Systems and PBX.
3. The Company will provide from time to time a 30-day free trial of its Custom Calling Services to any customer that has not previously tried or subscribed to the service being requested, thereby limiting a customer to one free trial offer for each Custom Calling Service.

Issued: March 19, 2004

Effective:

In Accordance with Case No. 04-376-TP-ATA
Issued by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Kim Stumpp, General Manager Telephone/Internet Operations
Benton Ridge, Ohio

P.U.C.O. NO. 6
GENERAL EXCHANGE SERVICE TARIFF

3. Rates and Charges (con't)

b. Monthly Subscription Rate Discount

Total feature charges will be reduced by a credit corresponding to the following discount schedule: (M)

Total Credit Per Month

Number of Features or Feature Sets	Discount
Two	2%
Three	2%
Four	
Five or More	

NOTE: The Monthly Subscription Rate Discount is no longer available as of the effective date, below. Current customers with multiple features will be grandfathered and will continue to receive their discount. (N)

Non-Recurring Charges (T)

A non-recurring charge applies to establish a change to new and/or additional CLASS features on a per-service-order basis, except when the change results only in the removal of one or more CLASS features. The Service Order and Central Office Charges listed below apply only once per customer order, regardless of the number of features ordered.

Non-Recurring Charge,
Each Line Equipped

Per Call Blocking	NONE
Per Line Blocking *	\$8.00 per Service Order, plus \$7.00 Central Office Visit
Repeat Dialing	per Svc Ord./Cent. Off process
Call Return	per Svc Ord./Cent. Off process
Caller ID	per Svc Ord./Cent. Off process
Caller ID with Name	per Svc Ord./Cent. Off process
Selective Call Rejection	per Svc Ord./Cent. Off process
Selective Call Acceptance	per Svc Ord./Cent. Off process

* Waived for non-published customers during the first 90 days after the introduction of the service. After the 90-day period has expired, the non-recurring connection charge will apply.

Issued: March 19, 2004

Effective:

In Accordance with Case No. 04-376-TP-ATA
Issued by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Kim Stumpp, General Manager Telephone/Internet Operations
Benton Ridge, Ohio

EXHIBIT B
(Revised Tariff Sheets)

BENTON RIDGE TELEPHONE COMPANY
BENTON RIDGE, OHIO

SECTION 1
Fourth Revised Sheet No. 4
Replaces Third Revised Sheet No. 4

P.U.C.O. NO. 6
LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE TARIFFS

	<u>Business</u>	<u>Residence</u>	
Number change	12.00 (4)	10.00 (4)	
Restoral of service	14.00 (4)	12.00 (4)	
Move (off premise)	27.00 (4)	25.00 (4)	
Subsequent visits	20.00 (4)	18.00 (4)	
Non-published number change	12.00 (4)	10.00 (4)	
Service charge – insufficient fund check	20.00	20.00	(I)

Customer owned equipment (See Section 5, Original Sheet No. 1)

Test Charge	30.00	30.00
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Miscellaneous

Fire phone service	15.00 (4)
Payphone per local call	.25
Delayed payment	5% (5)

NOTE: Footnote explanations are as follows:

(1) In addition to applicable access line rate.

(2) Vacation rates: The applicable reduction in rate is equal to 50% of the total exchange access line, plus applicable service connection charges (See Section 2, Second Revised Sheet No. 2).

(3) The loaded labor wage rate associated with the above item will be billed at \$6.00 for each quarter hour. (M)

(4) Rate listed plus applicable service connection charges.

(5) 5% of customer bill. If payment of all charges for service is not made monthly on or before 20 days after the billing date. (M)

Issued: May 3, 2004

Effective:

In Accordance with Order No. 04-645-TP-ALI
Issued by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Kim Stumpp, General Manager Telephone/Internet Operations
Benton Ridge, Ohio

BENTON RIDGE TELEPHONE COMPANY
BENTON RIDGE, OHIO

SECTION 1
Fourth Revised Sheet No. 5
Replaces Third Revised Sheet No. 5

P.U.C.O. NO. 6
LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE TARIFFS

(M)

(M)

Issued: May 3, 2004

Effective:

In Accordance with Order No. 04-645-TP-ALI
Issued by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Kim Stumpp, General Manager Telephone/Internet Operations
Benton Ridge, Ohio

P.U.C.O. NO. 6
GENERAL EXCHANGE SERVICE TARIFF

CUSTOM CALLING SERVICE (Continued)

1. Custom Calling Features

d. Speed Calling – Short List

the list of eight (8) called numbers as often as desired. This service is available on rotary and push button telephone sets.

Monthly recurring charge\$1.00

e. Speed Calling – Long List

This feature enables the customer to dial with a two-digit code up to thirty (30) frequently called numbers, both local and long distance. The customer can change the list of thirty (30) called numbers as often as desired. This service is available on rotary and push button telephone sets. A customer must choose between the Short List or the Long List Feature as both cannot be used simultaneously on a single line.

Monthly recurring charge\$1.50

f. Call Forward – Busy

This service allows incoming calls to a busy line to be forwarded to a predetermined telephone number.

Monthly recurring charge\$3.95

g. Bronze Calling Package

This package includes Call Waiting, Call Forwarding, and Three-Way Calling. The Bronze Calling Package is available in all Company exchanges.

Monthly recurring charge\$3.99

2. The above Custom Calling rates apply to individual residence and business access lines, including Key Systems and PBX.
3. The Company will provide from time to time a 30-day free trial of its Custom Calling Services to any customer that has not previously tried or subscribed to the service being requested, thereby limiting a customer to one free trial offer for each Custom Calling Service.
4. A non-recurring charge equal to the applicable Service Order and Central Office charges set forth in Section 1, Sheet 3 of this tariff will apply to establish, change, or add Custom Calling Services, on a per-order basis, except when the change results only in the removal of one or more such services. The non-recurring charge applies only once per customer order, regardless of the number of features ordered. (N)

Issued: May 3, 2004

Effective:

In Accordance with Case No. 04-645-TP-ALI
Issued by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Kim Stumpp, General Manager Telephone/Internet Operations
Benton Ridge, Ohio

P.U.C.O. NO. 6
GENERAL EXCHANGE SERVICE TARIFF

3. Rates and Charges (con't)

b. Monthly Subscription Rate Discount

Total feature charges will be reduced by a credit corresponding to the following discount schedule:

Total Credit Per Month

<u>Number of Features or Feature Sets</u>	<u>% Discount</u>
Two	20%
Three	25%
Four	30%
Five or More	40%

NOTE: The Monthly Subscription Rate Discount is no longer available as of the effective date below. Current customers with multiple features will be "grandfathered" and will continue to receive the discounts.

c. Non-Recurring Charges

A non-recurring charge applies to establish or change to new and/or additional CLASS features, on a per-service-order basis, except when the change results only in the removal of one or more CLASS features. The Service Order and Central Office Charges listed below apply only once per customer order, regardless of the number of features ordered.

	<u>Non-Recurring Charge, Each Line Equipped</u>	
Per Call Blocking	NONE	
Per Line Blocking *	\$7.00 per Service Order, plus \$10.00 Central Office	(Z)
Repeat Dialing	per Service Order/Central Office	(T)
Call Return	per Service Order/Central Office	
Caller ID	per Service Order/Central Office	
Caller ID with Name	per Service Order/Central Office	
Selective Call Rejection	per Service Order/Central Office	
Selective Call Acceptance	per Service Order/Central Office	(T)

* Waived for non-published customers during the first 90 days after the introduction of the service. After the 90-day period has expired, the non-recurring connection charge will apply.

Issued: May 3, 2004

Effective:

In Accordance with Case No. 04-645-TP-ALI
Issued by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Kim Stumpp, General Manager Telephone/Internet Operations
Benton Ridge, Ohio

EXHIBIT C

The Applicant, The Benton Ridge Telephone Company, hereby proposes to increase its service charge for checks returned due to insufficient funds. By doing so, the Applicant's objective is to encourage full and proper payment of customer invoices. The increased charge is intended to recover both the actual charge imposed by the banks for returned checks, as well as the labor expenses associated with the handling of such checks. By reducing the amount of time its customer service representatives spend handling returned checks, the Applicant can devote more resources to providing the highest levels of service to all of its customers.

Additionally, the Applicant proposes to add a non-recurring charge applicable to Custom Calling Services. Such non-recurring charge will be identical to that approved for CLASS features and equals the total of the Company's Service Order and Central Office charges, as set forth in Section 1 of the Applicant's tariff.

Lastly, the Applicant is correcting the Service Order and Central Office charges that appear as Non-Recurring Charges on Sheet 8 of Section 2B. The referenced rates do not correctly correspond to the long-established Service Order and Central Office charges set forth on Sheet No. 3 of Section 1.

EXHIBIT D

Customers were informed of the proposed rates via a bill insert that was mailed between April 28 – April 30, 2004. Attached is a copy of the bill insert.

The Benton Ridge Telephone Company

CUSTOMER NOTICE

The Benton Ridge Telephone Company has filed an application with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) requesting authority to raise rates for certain of its non-basic local telephone services. If approved by the PUCO, the new rates will become effective on July 6, 2004.

The following rates are impacted by the request for a rate increase:

<u>Service(s)</u>	<u>Present Rates</u>	<u>Proposed Rates</u>	<u>Amount of Increase</u>
Insufficient Fund Check Charge	\$5.00	\$20.00	\$15.00
Custom Calling Services (Call Forwarding, Call Waiting, Three-Way Calling, Speed Calling, Call Forward-Busy, Bronze Calling Package)	No Non-Recurring Charge	Residential: Non-Recurring Charge of \$17.00 (\$7.00 Service Order/\$10.00 Central Office) Business: Non-Recurring Charge of \$22.00 (\$10.00 Service Order/\$12.00 Central Office)	\$17.00 \$22.00

If you have any questions concerning these new charges, please call our business office at 419-859-2144 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you believe that these proposed charges are unfair, you have the right to lodge an objection with the PUCO, prior to June 2, 2004, either by writing to the following address: Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Docketing Department, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793, or by calling the PUCO's toll free hotline at 1-800-686-7826.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing Application were served upon the following by
first class mail, postage prepaid, this 3rd day of May, 2004:

Mr. David Bergmann
Office of Ohio Consumers' Counsel
10 West Broad Street
Suite 1800
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Marvin E. Kennedy, Jr., Mayor
P.O. Box 5
Benton Ridge, Ohio 45816


Craig Swary, Mayor
939 Walnut Street
P.O. Box 234
New Bavaria, Ohio 43548

Thomas Wolfrum, Township Clerk
Highland Township
15772 Hill Road
Defiance, Ohio 43512

William Klear, Jr., Township Clerk
Palmer Township
2277 Road 18
Continental, Ohio 45831

Diane Hoellrich, Township Clerk
Pleasant Township
327 Railway Avenue
P.O. Box 463
Holgate, Ohio 43527

Larry Mansfield, Township Clerk
Monroe Township
P.O. Box 363
Continental, Ohio 45831



Carolyn S. Flahive