

Control Number: 46653



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TARIFF CONTROL NO. 46653

**APPLICATION OF SOUTHWEST §
ARKANSAS TELEPHONE §
COOPERATIVE, INC. FOR TARIFF §
REVISIONS UNDER 16 TEXAS §
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE § 26.208 §**

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF TEXAS**

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COMMISSION STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION

COMES NOW the Staff of the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Staff), representing the public interest, and files this Commission Staff's Recommendation. In support thereof, Staff shows the following:

I. BACKGROUND

On December 8, 2016, Southwest Arkansas Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (Southwest Arkansas) filed an application to make revisions to its Local Exchange Tariff. Southwest Arkansas proposed an effective date of December 2, 2016. The Notice Setting Deadline for Staff Recommendation, issued December 9, 2016, required Staff to file a Recommendation on the Application by December 19, 2016. This pleading is therefore timely filed.

II. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff has reviewed the application, and as detailed in the attached memorandum of Stephen Mendoza of the Commission's Rate Regulation Division, Staff recommends approval of the requested revisions to Southwest Arkansas' Local Exchange Tariff.

III. CONCLUSION

Staff respectfully requests the entry of an order consistent with the above recommendation.

Dated: December 19, 2016

Respectfully Submitted,

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS
LEGAL DIVISION**

Margaret Uhlig Pemberton
Division Director

Stephen Mack
Managing Attorney

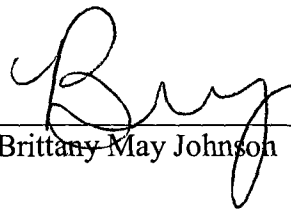


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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of this document will be served on all parties of record on December 19, 2016, in accordance with 16 TAC § 22.74.




Brittany May Johnson

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS

Memorandum

TO: Brittany Johnson
Legal Division

FROM: Stephen Mendoza 
Rate Regulation Division

DATE: December 19, 2016

RE: Tariff Control No. 46653 – **Application of Southwest Arkansas Telephone Cooperative, Inc. to Revise Tariff Pages Pursuant to 16 Tex. Admin. Code § 26.208**

On December 8, 2016, Southwest Arkansas Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (“Southwest Arkansas” or “the Cooperative”) filed an application to make an administrative revision to its tariff. Southwest Arkansas is proposing to update its local tariffs pursuant to 16 Tex. Admin. Code § 26.208 and 16 Tex. Admin. Code § 22.263(e) – Reciprocity of Final Orders Between States. The proposed tariff revisions contain updates to the Cooperative’s Lifeline tariff as discussed below. Southwest Arkansas has provided the tariff sheets, as stamped and received by the Arkansas Public Service Commission. The Cooperative serves less than 10 percent of its total Southwest Arkansas customers in Texas. Accordingly, the Cooperative qualifies for approval of final orders by reciprocity pursuant to 16 Tex. Admin. Code § 22.263(e).

The tariff filing includes Lifeline revisions in compliance with FCC 16-38 Third Report and Order, Further Report and Order, and Order on Reconsideration, in the Matter of Lifeline and Link Up Reform adopted on March 31, 2016. Specifically, effective December 2, 2016, qualified Lifeline customers will be able to apply the monthly federal Lifeline discount to either eligible broadband internet service or voice service. As such, the Cooperative made the required changes to update or clarify information related to the federal Lifeline discount.

Because eligibility requirements for state Lifeline support in Texas will differ from the federal eligibility requirements becoming effective December 2, 2016, Southwest Arkansas is proposing separate state Lifeline and federal Lifeline tariff sections delineating respective program rates, terms and conditions.

Commission Staff (Staff) has reviewed the application and finds that the Cooperative is in compliance with the necessary provisions of 16 Tex. Admin. Code §§ 26.208 and 22.263. Accordingly, Staff recommends that the following tariff sheets be **APPROVED** as filed on December 8, 2016:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Schedule No.</u>	<u>Sheet</u>
Lifeline Program	1	Second Revised Sheet No. 6
Lifeline Program	24-A	Sheet No. 9
Lifeline Program	24-A	Sheet No. 10
Lifeline Program	24-A	Sheet No. 11
Lifeline Program	24-A	Sheet No. 12
Lifeline Program	24-A	Sheet No. 13
Lifeline Program	24-A	Sheet No. 14
Lifeline Program	24-A	Sheet No. 15
Lifeline Program	24-A	Sheet No. 16
Lifeline Program	24-A	Sheet No. 17
Lifeline Program	24-A	Sheet No. 18