



Control Number: 48339



Item Number: 6

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TARIFF CONTROL NO. 48339

**NOTICE OF WEST PLAINS
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.
FOR APPROVAL OF A MINOR RATE
CHANGE PURSUANT TO 16 TEXAS
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE § 26.171**

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PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

OF TEXAS

2018 MAY 11 PM 1:05

FILED CLERK

**COMMISSION STAFF'S COMMENTS ON
SUFFICIENCY OF APPLICATION AND NOTICE**

COMES NOW the Staff of the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Staff), representing the public interest, and files this Commission Staff's Comments on Sufficiency of Application and Notice. Staff recommends that the Application be found sufficient for further review. In support thereof, Staff shows the following:

I. BACKGROUND

On May 2, 2018, West Plains Telecommunications, Inc. (West Plains) filed a notice with the Commission to initiate a minor rate change to increase the Returned Check Charge in its Local Exchange Tariff, with a proposed effective date of June 1, 2018. The Notice Requiring Staff Comments and Establishing Procedural Schedule, issued May 3, 2018, required Staff to file Comments on Sufficiency of Application and Notice by May 14, 2018. This pleading is therefore timely filed.

II. STAFF COMMENTS

Staff has reviewed the application and proposed notice. As detailed in the attached memorandum of Stephen Mendoza, of the Commission's Rate Regulation Division, Staff finds that West Plains has provided the information required in 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 26.171(d).

III. CONCLUSION

For the reasons specified above, Staff recommends that West Plains' Application be deemed sufficient for further review and recommends that the notice be deemed sufficient.

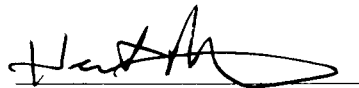
Dated: May 11, 2018

Respectfully Submitted,

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS
LEGAL DIVISION**

Margaret Uhlig Pemberton
Division Director

Stephen Mack
Managing Attorney

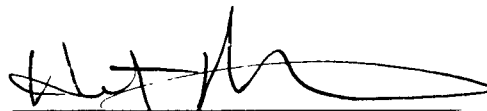


Heath D. Armstrong
State Bar No. 24105048
1701 N. Congress Avenue
P.O. Box 13326
Austin, Texas 78711-3326
(512) 936-7261
(512) 936-7268 (facsimile)
Heath.Armstrong@puc.texas.gov

TARIFF CONTROL NO. 48339

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of this document will be served on all parties of record on May 11, 2018, in accordance with 16 TAC § 22.74.




Heath D. Armstrong

Public Utility Commission of Texas

Memorandum

TO: Heath Armstrong
Legal Division

FROM: Stephen Mendoza 
Rate Regulation Division

DATE: May 11, 2018

RE: **Tariff Control No. 48339** – Notice of West Plains Telecommunications, Inc. for Approval of a Minor Rate Change under 16 Texas Administrative Code § 26.171

RECOMMENDATION ON SUFFICIENCY

On May 2, 2018, West Plains Telecommunications, Inc. (West Plains or the Company) filed a notice with the Commission to initiate a minor rate change, with its proposed tariff to be effective June 1, 2018.

Background

West Plains files this notice in an effort to increase the Returned Check Charge from \$8.00 to \$25.00. The Company explained in the application that these nonrecurring charges will be assessed to both residential and business customers, where applicable.

A review of the application finds that the proposed increase meets the definition of a minor rate change, within the 5% limitation as prescribed in 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 26.5(148). The Company provided information which indicates that the overall impact on the regulated intrastate gross revenues for the proposed nonrecurring charges results in an estimated annual increase of \$510, which the Company stated is less than a 5% impact. Therefore, West Plains' notice of a minor rate change is appropriate and consistent with the definition of a "minor change" in 16 TAC § 26.5(148).

Notice and Waiver Requests

In its filing, West Plains stated that it provided direct customer notice by bill insert of this proceeding on May 1, 2018, which is at least 10 days prior to the proposed effective date of West Plains' proposed rate changes. In addition, the Company provided a copy of its direct customer notice. West Plains appears to have satisfied the provisions of 16 TAC § 26.171(d) for notice requirements.

Conclusion

The notice filed with the Commission by West Plains for a minor rate change appears to be sufficient and complete.