

DECISION MEMORANDUM

TO: COMMISSIONER KJELLANDER
COMMISSIONER RAPER
COMMISSION ANDERSON
COMMISSION SECRETARY
LEGAL
WORKING FILE

FROM: GRACE SEAMAN

DATE: APRIL 7, 2016

RE: COLUMBINE TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC DBA SILVER STAR
COMMUNICATIONS' MARCH 30, 2016 TARIFF ADVICE LETTER TO
REVISE RESIDENTIAL SAFETY LINE SERVICE RATE AS REQUIRED
BY THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (FCC).

On March 30, 2016, Columbine Telephone Company, Inc. dba Silver Star Communications ("Columbine" or "Company") filed a Tariff Advice Letter requesting Commission approval to increase the residential safety line service rate from \$16.00 to \$17.88. Columbine submits this filing to comply with the FCC's rate floor requirements. The Company requests an effective date of June 1, 2016.

BACKGROUND

In the *USF/ICC Transformation Order* No. 11-161, released on November 18, 2011, the FCC established certain requirements for rate-of-return carriers to receive federal high cost loop support (HCLS). One of the requirements was that the carrier's local rate plus state fees must meet the FCC's established rate floor if it wished to avoid a corresponding reduction in the HCLS. On June 10, 2014, the FCC released FCC 14-54 Report and Order that implemented a multi-year schedule to provide adequate time for incumbent carriers and state commissions to make any necessary rate adjustments. For the period between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, the FCC will reduce support to the carriers for any lines "below \$18.00 or the rate floor established by the 2016 rate survey, whichever is lower." *See* FCC 14-54 Report and Order at 4.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff has reviewed the filing and believes it meets the requirements set forth in the FCC Orders. Staff recommends Commission approval of this compliance filing with an effective date of June 1, 2016.

COMMISSION DECISION

Does the Commission agree?


Grace Seaman

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