



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

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NOTICE

To: Local Exchange Carriers in Massachusetts

From: Lindsay DeRoche, Director, Competition Division

Date: May 26, 2021

Re: 2021 8YY Access Charge Tariff Filings

Through this Notice, the Department of Telecommunications and Cable ("Department") modifies its general tariff-filing requirements and provides guidance to carriers for filings relating to the July 2021 8YY rate revisions mandated by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") in its October 9, 2020 Order, *In the Matter of 8YY Access Charge Reform*, WC Docket No. 18-156, FCC 20-143. The Department relies on FCC requirements, industry input, and Department practice as a guide. Please note that the Department's tariff regulations can now be found at 207 C.M.R. 12.00.

Filing Deadlines. The Department determines in this instance that good cause exists to permit tariff revisions to take effect before the expiration of the statutory 30-day period ("expedited effective date").¹ Because the FCC ties some of the carriers' 2021 rate revisions to carriers' corresponding interstate rate reductions, which have shorter filing deadlines, the Department will permit carriers to file tariff revisions reflecting the 2021 8YY rate reductions according to the following schedule. **Please note that Department staff may contact carriers seeking clarification or revisions within 30 days of the date of the filing.**

ILECs: Filings are due to the Department on the same day the carrier's interstate switched access filings are due with the FCC: June 16, 2021 or June 24, 2021 (depending on the type of changes they propose to make), for a July 1, 2021, effective date.²

CLECs: Filings are due to the Department by the same day that the carrier's interstate switched access filings are filed with the FCC but no later than one calendar day prior to the effective date of the change.

¹ See G.L. c. 159, § 19.

² See *In re July 1, 2021 Annual Access Charge Tariff Filings*, WC Docket No. 21-148, DA 21-433 (Apr. 16, 2021).

As a reminder, “issued” dates for all tariff revisions should reflect a date no earlier than when the Department receives an original, hardcopy of the filing.

Filing Fee. \$100.00 check per tariff revision, payable to the “Commonwealth of Massachusetts.” The Department waives the additional \$100.00 filing fee for expedited effective date filings.

No References to Outside Documents. Consistent with Department practice and requirements, the Department will not permit references to other documents (e.g., federal tariffs) in lieu of actual rates.

Rate Levels.³ In accordance with the FCC October 9, 2020 Order all ILECs are required to transition their interstate and intrastate toll free (8YY) originating end office access service rates to bill-and-keep over a three-year period. As part of the transition, beginning July 1, 2021, ILECs are required to tariff separate rate elements for toll free and non-toll free interstate and intrastate originating end office access service. These ILECs then must reduce their intrastate toll free originating end office access service rates to interstate levels when intrastate rates exceed comparable interstate rates. Also, all ILECs are required to tariff rate elements for interstate and intrastate non-toll free originating transport service between an end office and tandem switch and remove these rate elements from their tariffs for toll free originating traffic, consistent with a bill-and-keep methodology. Further, all ILECs are required to tariff a single rate element of no more than \$0.001 per minute for joint tandem switched transport access service for toll free calls. In addition, beginning July 1, 2021, ILECs are required to reduce the intrastate and interstate toll free database query charges in their tariffs to no more than \$0.004248 per query. ILECs charging database query charges lower than this rate, however, may not increase their rates.

Supporting Materials. Because some of the carriers’ rate reductions are tied to their interstate rates, the Department directs carriers to submit copies of their corresponding interstate tariff pages.

Confidential Materials. The Department directs carriers to submit unredacted documentation to the Department. **To the extent that a carrier deems any information submitted with its filing to be proprietary, the filing should include a Motion for Confidential Treatment.** The Department will not grant blanket requests for confidentiality, and carriers should not redact information otherwise available from public sources.

Suspensions. If the FCC suspends a carrier’s interstate tariff filing subject to the FCC’s 8YY Access Charge reform, the Department may suspend the corresponding intrastate filings or take other appropriate action.⁴

Related ILEC Certifications and Data Submittals. The Department reminds ILECs of their obligations to submit to the Department a duplicative recovery certification and, if collecting Connect America Fund (“CAF”) ICC support, CAF ICC data with their annual access tariff filing submittals.⁵

Transmittal Letter. Carriers should direct all submittals to the attention of Shonda Green, Department Secretary. The transmittal letter should: (1) reference this Notice; (2) summarize all documentation within the filing; (3) list the tariff number(s), section(s), and page(s) being

³ See *In re July 1, 2021 Annual Access Charge Tariff Filings*, WC Docket No. 21-148, DA 21-433, (Apr. 16, 2021), ¶ 5.

⁴ See, e.g., G.L. c. 159, §§ 19, 20.

⁵ See 47 C.F.R. §§ 51.917(d)(1)(vii), 54.304(d).

revised; and (4) explain what the proposed revisions accomplish (refer to Supporting Materials section, *supra*). The transmittal letter should also include contact information in case Department staff has any questions about the filing.

Hardcopy Filings and Number of Copies. All filings should be submitted as hardcopies. If a carrier seeks confidential treatment for any of the submitted information, the filing should include one unredacted original, one unredacted copy, and two redacted copies of the filing. If a carrier does not seek confidential treatment, the filing should include one original version and one copy.

Electronic Filings and Accessibility. The Department does not have an online tariff filing system. However, in the past multiple parties have urged the Department to make unofficial electronic copies of access tariff revision filings accessible. In order to accommodate these requests, the Department requests that all carriers submit .pdf copies, in addition to their hardcopy filings, to Shonda Green, Department Secretary, at dtc.efiling@mass.gov. The Department has created a tab entitled “ICC Tariff Filings” on its homepage at www.mass.gov/dtc, and will endeavor to post all initial tariff revision filings and, if applicable, subsequent revisions, after they are received.

Contact. For questions about this Notice, please contact Armine Simonyan, Economist, at armine.simonyan@mass.gov or 857-408-5182.