Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C.

UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

Federal Universal Service Support Mechanisms Quarterly Contribution Base for the Third Quarter 2015

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION ......................................................................................................................... 1

CONTRIBUTION BASE ............................................................................................................. 3

THIRD QUARTER 2015 PROJECTED COLLECTED REVENUE BASE TO BE USED FOR QUARTER 2015 CONTRIBUTIONS ........................................................... 5
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENTITIES WHICH REPORTED ON
FORM 499-Q AS OF MAY 20, 2015

M05
BEFORE THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT MECHANISMS
FUND SIZE QUARTERLY CONTRIBUTION BASE
FOR THE THIRD QUARTER 2015

INTRODUCTION

The Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) is the not-for-profit corporation appointed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) to administer the federal Universal Service Fund (USF) and the four federal Universal Service Support Mechanisms: High Cost, Lifeline, Rural Health Care, and Schools and Libraries. USAC hereby submits the contribution base amount to be used for the third quarter of calendar year 2015 (3Q2015) in accordance with Section 54.709 of the Commission’s rules. USAC is filing this contribution base report pursuant to the Commission’s order of December 13, 2002, updating the Contribution Methodology


2 See 47 C.F.R. § 54.709(a)(3).
Order issued on March 14, 2001. In the December 13, 2002 order, the Commission changed the universal service contribution base methodology to projected collected revenues rather than actual contributor revenues billed. On March 14, 2003, the Commission released an Order and Second Order on Reconsideration, which, inter alia, directed the Wireline Competition Bureau to announce the universal service contribution factor as a percentage rounded up to the nearest tenth of one percent. The Commission also directed the Wireline Competition Bureau to account for contribution factor rounding when calculating the “circularity” discount factor.

Consistent with Commission regulations and orders, USAC filed the Federal Universal Service Support Mechanisms Fund Size and Administrative Cost Projections for 3Q2015 on May 1, 2015.

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4 Projected Contribution Methodology Order at ¶¶ 1, 29-30.


6 Id.
On June 23, 2006, the Commission issued an order realigning oversight responsibilities within the FCC for the USF, the universal service support mechanisms and USAC.⁷ Pursuant to that order, the FCC Office of the Managing Director is now responsible for calculating the quarterly contribution factor and issuing related public notices.⁸

Upon approval of the universal service support mechanisms quarterly funding requirements, projected administrative expenses, and the contribution base, the Commission will establish a quarterly contribution factor and a circularity factor.⁹ USAC will then bill contributors on a monthly basis for their individual obligations based on the approved contribution factor and circularity factor.¹⁰

**CONTRIBUTION BASE**

USAC collects interstate and international projected revenue information from carriers on the FCC Form 499-Q (Form 499-Q) four times each year and submits aggregate information on a quarterly basis to the FCC.¹¹

Carriers also file the FCC Form 499-A (Form 499-A) in April of each year to report actual annual revenues from the prior year. USAC uses revenue data provided by carriers on the FCC Form 499-A to perform annual true-ups of actual revenue to the quarterly projected revenue data submitted by carriers on FCC Form 499-Q during the

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⁸ Id.
⁹ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.709(a)(3).
¹⁰ Id.
¹¹ The Form 499-Q includes a box for each of the quarterly filing submissions. Carriers check the appropriate box to indicate the quarter for which revenue information is being reported. Data is due to USAC approximately one month before filing is due to the FCC.
prior calendar year. As necessary, USAC will refund or collect from carriers any over-payments or under-payments. As mandated by the Commission, if the combined quarterly revenues reported by a carrier on its Forms 499-Q are greater than those reported on its annual revenue report on Form 499-A, then a refund will be provided to the carrier based on an average of the two lowest contribution factors for the year. If the combined quarterly revenues reported by a carrier are less than those reported on its annual revenue report on Form 499-A, then USAC will collect the difference from the carrier using an average of the two highest contribution factors from that year.

Carriers were required to file the Form 499-Q with 3Q2015 projected collected revenue information on or before May 1, 2015. By June 1 2015, USAC is required to file revenue data with the FCC based on the May 1, 2015 carrier filings. The Commission will use the program demand data and the projected collected revenue to calculate the universal service contribution factor for 3Q2015. Following is the current Form 499-Q filing schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due Dates</th>
<th>Projected Collected Revenue for USF contributions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 1, 2015</td>
<td>3Q: July – September 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 3, 2015</td>
<td>4Q: October – December 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2, 2015</td>
<td>1Q: January – March 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 1, 2016</td>
<td>2Q: April – June 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12 In addition, carriers may file a revised Form 499-Q within 45 days of the original filing due date for that current quarter. See Projected Collected Contribution Methodology Order at ¶ 36.
13 Projected Collected Contribution Methodology Order at ¶ 36.
14 Id.
15 See FCC Form 499-Q at http://www.usac.org/cont/tools/forms/default.aspx. See also, 47 C.F.R. § 54.711.
16 See 47 C.F.R. § 54.709(a).
17 Id. USAC files projected program demand data at least 60 days prior to the start of a quarter and total contribution base revenue data at least 30 days prior to the start of a quarter.
Telecommunications providers qualifying for the *de minimis* exemption from contribution requirements are not required to complete the Form 499-Q.\(^{18}\) However, for providers required to contribute to the Universal Service Support Mechanisms, the Form 499-Q must be submitted by the due date for each quarter listed above.\(^{19}\)

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**THIRD QUARTER 2015 PROJECTED COLLECTED REVENUE BASE TO BE USED FOR THIRD QUARTER 2015 CONTRIBUTIONS**

The total projected collected interstate and international end-user revenue base to be used in determining the contribution factor for the Universal Service Support Mechanisms for 3Q2015 is: $15,046,095,311.47. This amount was derived using the projected collected revenue reported on the FCC Form 499-Q submissions. Interstate telecommunications service providers were required to complete this form reporting July – September 2015 projected collected revenue information and return it by May 1, 2015.\(^{20}\) USAC has included complete revenue data from 3,909 carriers (2,921 contributors and 988 *de minimis* carriers).

The funding base for 3Q2015 is developed from the projected collected revenues for 3Q2015 that were reported by carriers in May 2015. As of May 20, 2015, USAC has yet to receive information from 173 non-*de minimis* telecommunications service providers that had previously submitted information to USAC. For the FCC’s review of the 3Q2015 funding base for the Support Mechanisms, USAC includes estimated revenues based on prior submissions for those carriers that failed to submit a Form 499-Q.\(^{21}\)

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\(^{18}\) See 47 C.F.R. § 54.708.

\(^{19}\) 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.711, 54.713.

\(^{20}\) 47 C.F.R. § 54.711(a).

\(^{21}\) See 47 C.F.R. § 54.709(d).
Appendix M05 provides a list of non-de minimis companies that have or should have filed the May 1, 2015 Form 499-Q data as of May 20, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

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June 1, 2015