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Transmittal No. 1503 - Amended

Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

Attention: Wireline Competition Bureau

The accompanying tariff material, issued on behalf of the National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc. (NECA) bearing Tariff F.C.C. No. 5, Access Service, is sent to you for filing in compliance with the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

With this filing, NECA is amending Transmittal No. 1503 to submit updated Tariff Review Plan (TRP) Connect America Fund Broadband-Only Loop Support (CAF BLS) spreadsheet files, as described below.

Transmittal No. 1503 was originally filed on December 19, 2016, amended on January 17, 2017, January 25, 2017, February 14, 2017, and March 17, 2017, and became effective on January 3, 2017. As part of the cost support for Transmittal No. 1503, NECA submitted the required TRP CAF ICC and TRP CAF BLS spreadsheet files for the 2016-2017 tariff test period.

This amendment includes an update to the TRPCAFBLS_Confidential.xlsx file to reflect updated CBOL demand and revenue data for the following companies:

<u>Company Name</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Study Area</u>
American Samoa Telecommunications Authority	AS	673900
Baldwin Telecom, Inc.	WI	330846
Belmont Telephone Co.	WI	330847
Cuba City Telephone Exchange Company, Inc.	WI	330872
Kingdom Telephone Company	MO	421901
McDonough Telephone Cooperative	IL	341047
Sandwich Isles Communications, Inc.	HI	623021
Topsham Tel. Co.	VT	140063
Wiggins Telephone Association	CO	462209

Coincident with this amendment, NECA is filing tariff revisions today under Transmittal No. 1513 to introduce new and revise existing CBOL rates for the companies listed in the table with the exception of Sandwich Isles Communications, Inc. who has a change in demand but no change in its currently tariffed CBOL rate.

Finally, this filing amends Transmittal No. 1503 to resubmit the file containing updated Appendix B (Accuracy of CAF BLS Data) certifications for those companies which provided new or updated CBOL demand. No changes were made to other companies' certifications previously submitted in this appendix. This filing also resubmits the Connect America Fund Inter-carrier Compensation (CAF ICC) spreadsheet files.

As was the case with the confidential TRP CAF ICC and TRP CAF BLS data files originally transmitted on December 19, 2016 under Transmittal No. 1503, NECA seeks confidential treatment of this data pursuant to the *Protective Order* designated for use in the Access Charge Tariff Filings Introducing Broadband-Only Loop Service proceeding.¹

Accordingly, the confidential data files have been marked, **“CONTAINS PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION – DO NOT RELEASE (PER DA 16-1249) PROTECTIVE ORDER).”** Attachment A of this Transmittal Letter contains detailed information regarding NECA's request for confidential treatment. This filing also includes a redacted version of the files identified in Attachment A marked, **“REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION.”**

Attachment B to this transmittal includes the listing of FCC Registration Numbers (FRNs) for the Telephone Companies on whose behalf this filing is being made.

In compliance with Section 61.14 of the Commission's Rules, the amended transmittal and associated files are being transmitted electronically today via the Commission's Electronic Tariff Filing System.

All correspondence and inquiries concerning this filing should be directed to me at the above address or faxed to 973-599-6612.

Jennifer Leonard

Attachments

Attachment A

Attachment B

TRPCAFICC_ConfidentialA.xlsx

TRPCAFICC_ConfidentialB.xlsx

TRPCAFICC_ConfidentialC.xlsx

TRPCAFBLS_Confidential.xlsx

AppendixB.pdf

TRPCAFICC_PublicA.xlsx

TRPCAFICC_PublicB.xlsx

TRPCAFICC_PublicC.xlsx

TRPCAFBLS_Public.xlsx

¹ See Procedures for Obtaining Confidential Information From Access Charge Tariff Filings Introducing Broadband-Only Loop Service, Public Notice Attachment, WC Docket No. 16-317, 31 FCC Rcd 11982 (2016)(*Protective Order*).

Request for Confidential Treatment

NECA seeks confidential treatment under the *Protective Order* designated for use in the Access Charge Tariff Filings Introducing Broadband-Only Loop Service proceeding.¹ This data is filed electronically via ETFS as part of the Tariff Review Plan for NECA's Tariff F.C.C. No. 5 filing, made under Transmittal No. 1503. This data is required by the Commission to monitor rate of return exchange carrier compliance² with rules regarding the revenue recovery mechanism³ for revenue lost due to mandatory access rate reductions and with the Commission's universal service mechanisms reforms for rate of return carriers.⁴

Pursuant to the terms of the *Protective Order*, signed declarations requesting access to the confidential information should be sent to the attention of Jennifer Leonard, NECA Senior Director Access Tariffs & Costs, via email to Tariff5@neca.org or via facsimile at 973.599.6612. NECA will provide electronic copies of the un-redacted files to Authorized Representative(s).⁵ NECA designates 80 South Jefferson Rd. Whippany, NJ 07981 and 1634 I (Eye) St., NW, Suite 510, Washington, D.C. 20006 as its public inspection locations.

Notwithstanding the *Protective Order*, the information provided in the files listed below are entitled to confidential, non-public treatment under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and related provisions of the Commission's rules.⁶ The information satisfies the requirement of FOIA Exemption 4 (trade secrets or commercial/financial information).

NECA submits the following information pursuant to section 0.459 in support of its request for confidential treatment of the data in the identified files.

- Identification of the specific information for which confidential treatment is sought:

NECA seeks confidential treatment for certain information in the following files, which contains confidential and proprietary financial information of NECA Common Line (CL) and Traffic Sensitive (TS) tariff participants:

TRPCAFICC_ConfidentialA.xlsx
TRPCAFICC_ConfidentialB.xlsx
TRPCAFICC_ConfidentialC.xlsx
TRPCAFBLS_Confidential.xlsx

This information includes actual revenues, revenue requirement data and demand for the 2011 fiscal year; trued-up revenues and cost data for the 2013-2014 test period; projections of revenues, cost data and demand for the 2012-2013, 2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 test periods; and the product of calculations made using the confidential data.

¹ See Procedures for Obtaining Confidential Information From Access Charge Tariff Filings Introducing Broadband-Only Loop Service, Public Notice Attachment, WC Docket No. 16-317, 31 FCC Rcd 11982 (2016)(*Protective Order*).

² 47 U.S.C. § 51.919(b).

³ 47 U.S.C. § 51.917.

⁴ 47 U.S.C. § 54.901.

⁵ See *Protective Order*, ¶ 7.

⁶ 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.457 and 0.459; 5 U.S.C. § 552, et. seq.

The data includes information on interstate access, intrastate access, reciprocal compensation, VoIP and fees quantified at the study area and/or exchange area level that was used by NECA to calculate each exchange carrier's Eligible Recovery and ARC rates.

This data also includes information on projected Consumer Broadband-Only Loops, ARC revenues, SLC lines, Special Access Revenue Requirements, shifted costs, and CAF BLS Broadband-Only support for the 2016/2017 test period.

- Identification of the Commission proceeding in which the information was submitted or a description of the circumstances giving rise to the submission:

This information is filed electronically via ETFS in conjunction with NECA Tariff F.C.C. No. 5, Broadband-Only Loop Service Filing, Transmittal No. 1503 in WC Docket No. 16-317.

- Explanation of the degree to which the information is commercial or financial, or contains a trade secret or is privileged:

The information in the files contains sensitive study area-specific and exchange area-specific information for NECA CL and TS tariff participants as required by Commission rules for monitoring compliance with the CAF ICC recovery mechanism. At the study area and exchange level, the information is granular and highly confidential to the reporting CL and TS tariff participants. The financial data is treated as a confidential trade secret by CL and TS tariff participants.

- Explanation of the degree to which the information concerns a service that is subject to competition:

Rural telephone service has historically lent itself to "cherry picking" by competitors that choose to serve only the low cost areas within a study area. Detailed information about revenues, expenses, and demand may help prospective competitors to gain insight to incumbent LEC (ILEC) market strategies and gain competitive advantage.

- Identification of any measures taken by the submitting party to prevent unauthorized disclosure:

The information provided in the files is maintained on a confidential basis and made available only to NECA representatives on a need to know basis. Any public information is only made available on an aggregate basis.

- Identification of whether the information is available to the public and the extent of any previous disclosure of the information to third parties:

The information in the identified files is not publicly available.

- Justification of the period during which the submitting party asserts that material should not be available for public disclosure:

NECA requests that all CL and TS tariff participant data provided in the TRP files identified above be treated as confidential indefinitely. Because of the sensitive nature of the data, it would not be appropriate for public disclosure at any time in the foreseeable future.

The *Protective Order* places additional requirements on Authorized Representative(s) to destroy or return all confidential information, as well as copies and derivative materials, within two weeks after final resolution of this proceeding.⁷

- Any other information that the party seeking confidential treatment believes may be useful in assessing whether its request for confidentiality should be granted:

NECA is submitting this information on behalf of the ILECs that participate in NECA's CL and TS tariff. The Commission should take care to not deprive those ILECs of the opportunity to speak for themselves in the event of a FOIA request for access to data. NECA requests that the Commission notify carriers of any FOIA request and allow them to be given a reasonable opportunity to file detailed information supporting continued confidential treatment of their respective data.

Accordingly, NECA requests confidential treatment of the member data provided in the files identified above pursuant to section 0.457 and 0.459 of the Commission's rules and paragraph 2 of the *Protective Order*. Pursuant to the *Protective Order*, NECA has marked each page of the non-redacted version of the identified file? as follows:

**CONTAINS PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION – DO NOT
RELEASE (PER DA 16-1249 PROTECTIVE ORDER)**

NECA has also complied with the requirement of the *Protective Order* for providing a redacted copy of the files identified above, which is marked: **REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION**.

⁷ See *Protective Order*, ¶ 14.