



DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES

INTERSTATE ACCESS SERVICES

TARIFF FCC No. 2

(Consolidated Communications Company of Pennsylvania)

2017 MID COURSE

**ACCESS CHARGE TARIFF FILING –IMPLEMENTATION OF FCC
BUSINESS DATA SERVICES ORDER**

TRANSMITTAL No. 77

November 16, 2017

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SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

Introduction

The Consolidated Communications Companies hereby provide a Description and Justification for its limited Tariff Review Plan revisions to F.C.C. Tariff No. 2 (Consolidated Communications of Pennsylvania Company) along with supporting documentation proposed under transmittal 77 of the Consolidated Communications Companies.

This information is being filed in accordance with the Commission's 2017 Notice for Procedures for the filing of Access Charge Revisions and Tariff Review Plans subject to new requirements established in the Business Data Services (Special Access) Proceeding released October 13, 2017 (DA 17-1009).

Description of the Consolidated Communications of Pennsylvania Company Operations

The Consolidated Communications of Pennsylvania Company (CCPA) was an average schedule Company through July, 2012, participating in the NECA Traffic Sensitive and Common Line pools. It provides local service, toll, private line services, access services, DSL, CLASS services, and other modern telecommunications services to its customers. CCPA is a price cap company pursuant to FCC Order 12-154¹ that fall under Sections 61.41 through 61.49 of the Commission's Rules and relevant Commission Orders.² They provide local service, toll, private line services, access services, DSL, CLASS services, and other modern telecommunications services to their customers.

CCPA is an Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC) that serves several suburban communities north of Pittsburgh, PA. In 1906, several of the leading citizens of the community of Gibsonia and the vicinity met to discuss plans for obtaining telephone service. After discussing the matter with the Central District Printing and Telegraph Company, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (later Bell of Pennsylvania), certain officials of that Company suggested that those interested in telephone service north of Pittsburgh should organize a local company which could be connected to the Telephone Company by trunk lines. On November 1, 1906, a perpetual charter was secured in the name of North Pittsburgh Telephone Company operating under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Within a period of two years from the inception of telephone service, the company installed 258 telephones or certificates by bequest. On December 4, 1909, a new building

¹ See, Order, Joint Petition of Price Cap Holding Companies for Conversion of Average Schedule Affiliates to Price Cap Regulation and for Limited Waiver Relief (FCC 12-154, WC Docket No. 12-63)

² See, Order, July 2017 Annual Access Charge Tariff Filings, released March 16, 2017, DA 17-258 ("2017 Filing Order"); and Tariff Review Plans, Material to be filed in support of 2017 Annual filings, DA 17-386, released April 24, 2017 ("2017 TRP Order").

was ready for occupancy. A new Western Electric switchboard was installed, and the new exchange named "Gibsonia." The Wexford exchange was installed on July 1, 1910, and Curtisville during World War I, to serve the coal industry. Telephone lines were then extended north from Warrendale and west from Mars into Cranberry Township.

In the mid 1980s, North Pittsburgh formed a holding company and became part of North Pittsburgh Systems, INC. (NPSI). NPSI was a holding company and through its subsidiaries provided telecommunications services and equipment in western Pennsylvania and Pittsburgh. Its subsidiaries primarily included North Pittsburgh Telephone Company (NASDAQ: NPSI); Penn Telecom, Inc; and Pinntech Inc.

North Pittsburgh Telephone operated as an ILEC that provided various services to business and residential telephone lines in southwestern Pennsylvania (northern Allegheny & southern Butler counties, and a small portion of Westmoreland county).

The Company also provided Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) services. Penn Telecom, through its optical fiber cable network, offered broadband services, Competitive Local Exchange Carrier (CLEC) services, and Long Distance services, as well as providing traditional key and Private Branch Exchange (PBX) systems to business customers. Pinnatech principally provided Internet and broadband-related services primarily through their Nauticom brand. North Pittsburgh Systems provided directory advertising and billing, as well as sale of telecommunications equipment.

North Pittsburgh Systems, Inc. (parent company) was sold to Consolidated Communications, headquartered in Mattoon, Illinois in 2007. Consolidated also owns and operates telephone services in Illinois, Texas, California, Kansas, Missouri, Minnesota, and Iowa. The sale was completed in January, 2008.

CCPA currently provides services to residential and business customers in several counties in western Pennsylvania. The CCPA territory consists of eight exchanges and covers 285 square miles, serving portions of Allegheny, Armstrong, Butler, and Westmoreland counties in Western Pennsylvania. The 8 exchanges served include: Cooperstown, Criders Corners, Curtisville, Freeport, Gibsonia, Mars, Saxonburg, and Wexford. The southernmost point of the ILEC territory is 12 miles north of the city of Pittsburgh. CCPA provides basic telephone services in this territory, with CCPA provides basic telephone services in this territory, with approximately 33,000 local access lines (averaging 116 lines per square mile) as of March 31, 2017. Approximately 40.6% of it's Pennsylvania local access lines in this territory serve residential customers and the remainder service business customers.

SECTION 2 OVERVIEW OF FILING PACKAGE

Tariff Support Material

This support material is submitted pursuant to Part 61.49 of the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) Rules and Regulations and the Order issued in WC Docket No. 16-143 , In the Matter of Business Data Services in an Internet Protocol Environment, released October 13, 2017 per DA 17-1009 (“2017 BDS Filing Order”).

In addition to the description and justification contained in this volume, the following information is submitted to provide specific support data at the proposed tariff level of detail for the Consolidated local operating companies.

Description and Justification

- Exhibit 1 – Consolidation Local Operating Companies and Study Area Designators
- Exhibit 2 – PCI Development
- Exhibit 3 – Price Cap Revenue Impact Analysis

Files:

- Tariff Review Plan (Excel file CCPAN167.xls)***
- Rate Detail (Excel file CCPAA17a.xls)***

SECTION 3 TARIFF SUPPORT

PCI Development

In Accordance with the Commission's Rules and in conjunction with the Business Data Services Public Notice, CCI has excluded all demand from competitive services in the analysis. The PCI for each service basket is calculated as shown in Exhibit 2, RDEV-1, Page 1 of 3. A GDP-PI factor of 1.5385%, and the new 2% Productivity (X) factor was used in calculating the PCI. The GDP-PI factor is based on the percentage change in the Gross Domestic Product Price Index (GDP-PI) between the quarter ending December 31, 2016 and the corresponding quarter of the 2015 GDP-PI.

CCI is also including a workpaper identifying the transmittal or letter filing date where the last index changes were implemented for the price cap categories has been included in Exhibit 2, RDEV-1, Page 3.

The prospective PCI values for the Special Access Basket are calculated using formula found in 61.45(b) of the Commission's rules. Calculation of PCI values is shown in Exhibit 2, RDEV-1, Page 1 of 3.

Determination of Exogenous Changes

In Accordance with the Commission's Rules, Consolidated developed certain exogenous changes for inclusion in the price cap formula. These changes include: (1) North American Number Plan Administration; (2) Regulatory Fees; and (3) Telecommunications Relay Service Fees.

Exogenous cost changes were individually developed for each of the items outlined above, and in the aggregate for all changes. Consolidated used base year 2016 (time of its last tariff filing) to estimate exogenous costs embedded in rates. Consolidated has also normalized the exogenous amounts to reflect any shift in revenue growth. The result is that no exogenous adjustment is made if the support rate has not changed. In other words the rate per line remains unchanged if the factor is unchanged. A brief description of each change follows and a summary of the exogenous changes is shown in Exhibit 2, RDEV-1.

North American Numbering Plan Administration

On June 27, 2001, the Federal Communications Commission release an order approving the compensation plan for the North American Numbering Plan Administration (NANPA) for fiscal year 2001.³ The Commission reviewed and accepted the North American Numbering Plan Administrator submission and ordered that a contribution

³ *In the Matter of Administration of the North American Number Plan*, CC Docket No. 92-237 and *North American Number Plan Cost Recovery Contribution Factor and Fund Size*, NDS File No. L-00-72, Order (DA 01-1524), released June 7, 2001 (NANP Order)

factor of 0.0000518⁴ This factor is used as an estimate for application to end user revenues of each telecommunications carrier in the United States to fund the program for the 2017 year (October 2017 to September 2018). The impact of the NANPA support has been included as an exogenous cost in this filing as shown in Exhibit 2, RDEV-1.

Regulatory Fees

Earlier Commission decisions⁵ allow local exchange companies to reflect the impact of regulatory fees as an exogenous cost in annual price cap filings. The impact of regulatory fee changes for the July 2017 – June 2018 fiscal year was calculated using a factor of .00302 as prescribed in the Commission's *Regulatory Fee Order*,⁶ and has been used as an estimate and included as an exogenous cost in this filing and is shown in Exhibit 2, RDEV-1.

Telecommunications Relay Service

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) required that all common carriers providing interstate voice telecommunications provide Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) to customers effective July 26, 1993. In its *Third Report and Order* in CC Docket No. 90-571,⁷ the Commission required that all common carriers providing interstate telecommunications services contribute to an interstate shared fund to support the TRS function. The impact of the TRS exogenous cost for this filing is calculated using the .02289 as estimated in the June 2, 2017 FCC Public Notice⁸ and is displayed on Exhibit 2, RDEV-1.

⁴ Wireline Competition Bureau announces the proposed North American Numbering Plan Administration fund size estimate and contribution factor for October 2017 through September 2018 (filed August 17, 2017) Public Notice, DA 17-783, CC Docket No. 92-237.

⁵ *Price Cap Treatment of Regulatory Fees Imposed by Section 9 of the Communications Act*, 9 FCC 6060 (1994), erratum (November 2, 1994).

⁶ *In the Matter of Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2017*, Report and Order and further notice of Proposed Rulemaking, (filed September 5, 2017) FCC Order 17-111, MD Docket 17-134 (*Regulatory Fee Order*).

⁷ *In the Matter of Telecommunications Relay Services and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990*, Third Report and Order, CC Docket No. 90-571, released July 20, 1993 (*Third Report and Order*).

⁸ *In the Matter of Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech to Speech Services for Individuals with hearing and speech disabilities*, FCC Order 17-642, (filed June 30, 2017, CG Docket 03-123 (*TRS Order*)).

Rate Detail and other Exhibits

Rate Detail files will be submitted as part of the Consolidated TRP submission to display demand quantities, current rates, proposed rates, and the associated quantities for the specific baskets. For CMT, proposed SLC rates are set at current capped levels pursuant to Consolidated's price cap order⁹ and PICC and CCL rates continue to be zero. For non-CMT baskets, PCI, SBI, and sub-index calculations are shown.

Consolidated also includes a revenue impact analysis in Exhibit 3, RDET1 to display overall impacts of any rate changes in the filing.

⁹ See, Order, Joint Petition of Price Cap Holding Companies for Conversion of Average Schedule Affiliates to Price Cap Regulation and for Limited Waiver Relief (FCC 12-154, WC Docket No. 12-63) para 31.

Exhibit 1

Consolidated Communications Operating Companies and Study Area Designators

**Consolidated Communications Operating Companies
And Study Areas**

Operating Company

COSA

Consolidated Communications of Pennsylvania Company (170193)

CCPA

Exhibit 2

PCI Development

Filing Date: 11/16/2017
 Filing Entity: Consolidated Communications of Pennsylvania C
 Transmittal Number: 77
 Dec 1, 2017 BDS Access Charge TRP Filing (CCPAN167.xls)

7/1/17 PCI Development

	Common Line (A)	Interexchange (D)	Special (E)
1. Revenues (R)	2,989,058	0	124,951
2. Exogenous Changes (Z)	13,342	0	0
a. EDFIT / ITC / Access Cost Changes	0	0	0
b. Telecom. Relay Service Changes	16,268	0	0
c. Lower Formula Adjustment (LFAM)	0	0	0
d. Regulatory Fee Support Changes	(2,896)	0	0
e. North American Numbering Plan Admin.	(30)	0	0
3. Z/R = (Ln 2 / Ln 1)	0.004464	0.000000	0.000000
4. W = ((Ln 1 + Ln 2) / R)	1.004464	0.000000	1.000000
5. GDP-PI Chain Weighted (4 Qtr 2016)	112.2380	112.2380	112.2380
6. GDP-PI Chain Weighted (4 Qtr 2015)	110.4980	110.4980	110.4980
7. Percent Change in GDP-PI (I) ((Ln 5 - Ln 6) / Ln 6) * 100	1.5385%	1.5385%	1.5385%
8. Productivity (X)	N/A	3.0000%	2.000000%
9. GDP-PI - X (Ln 8 - Ln 7)	N/A	-1.4615%	-0.4615%
10. Growth Rate of CCL MOU/Line (g)	-10.8662%	N/A	N/A
11. Existing PCI	23.5100	0.0000	100.0000
12. Targeted Revenue Differential TRP Form TGT- 1 r1100	N/A	N/A	N/A
13. Prop. PCI (NonExog Only: Annual Filing col.b&c: Ln 11; col.e: Ln 11 * (1+ Ln 9) SBI Upper Limit calculations only)	N/A	0.0000	99.5385
14. Proposed PCI col.b&c: Ln 11 * (1+ Ln 3 + Ln 12 / Ln 1) col.d&e: Ln 11 * (1+ Ln 3 + Ln 4 * Ln 9)	N/A	0.0000	99.5385

Filing Date: 11/16/2017
 Filing Entity: Consolidated Communications of Pennsylvania Company
 Transmittal Number: 77
 November 16, 2017 BDS Access Charge Price Cap Filing (CCPAN167.XLS)
 Exogenous Cost Charges Detail

	2016 Annual Interstate End User Revenues (499A) (A)	FCC 17-62 Regulatory Fee (B) = A * 0.00302	FCC 17-111 Regulatory Fee (C) = A * 0.00302	Difference (D) = C - B	Annualization (E) = D * 12 / 7
Exogenous Amount	\$ 4,258,687	\$ 12,861	\$ 12,861	\$ -	\$ -
Excluded Revenue	\$ -				\$ 100.00%
Price Cap Revenue Percentage	100.00%				

	2016 Annual Interstate End User Revenues (499A) (A)	Roika Loube Est. Telecom Relay (B) = A * 0.02244	DA 17-642 Telecom Relay (C) = A * 0.02289	Difference (D) = C - B	Annualization (E) = D * 12 / 7
Exogenous Amount	\$ 4,258,687	\$ 95,565	\$ 97,481	\$ 1,916	\$ 3,285
Excluded Revenue	\$ -				100.00%
Price Cap Revenue Percentage	100.00%				3.285

	2016 Annual Total End User Revenues (499A) (A)	DA 16-899 NANPA (B) = A * 0.0000368	DA 17-783 NANPA (C) = A * 0.0000518	Difference (D) = C - B
Exogenous Amount	\$ 18,003,237	\$ 589	\$ 829	\$ 240
Excluded Revenue	\$ -			100.00%
Price Cap Revenue Percentage	100.00%			240

	Common Line	Special	Price Cap Revenue	Annual Filing Special End User	Sum-1 Special	
499A 2016 Interstate End User Revenues	\$ 4,258,687	\$ -	\$ 4,258,687	\$ 5,708,071	7/1/2017 Annual Filing	
Allocation Basis	100.00%	0.00%		\$ 124,951	12/1/2017 After removal of BDS competitive services	
Telecom. Relay Support	\$ 3,285	\$ -	\$ 3,285			
NANPA	\$ 240	\$ -	\$ 240			
Regulatory Fee Support:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -			
	\$ 3,525	\$ -	\$ 3,525			
						Adjusted End User Special Access
						Additional Excluded Rev
						Adjusted Excluded Revenue

IND-1

Filing Date: 06/16/2017

Filing Entity: Consolidated Communications of Pennsylvania Company

Transmittal Number: 71

December 1, 2017 BDS Access Charge TRP Filing (CCPAN167.xls)

Price Cap Tariff Review Plan
Indices

	EXISTING PCI (E)	EXISTING API (F)	EXISTING SBI (G)	EXISTING SBI LIMIT (H)	12/01/2017 PCI (I)	12/01/2017 SBI (J)
<u>Common Line Basket</u>						
100 Total Common Line	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<u>Interexchange Basket</u>						
600 Total Interexchange	Trans.No. 44	Trans.No. 44	N/A	N/A	Trans.No. 44	N/A
<u>Special Access Basket</u>						
720 VG/WATS, Met, Tgh - Special	N/A	N/A	Trans.No. 44	Trans.No. 44	N/A	Trans.No. 77
730 Audio & Video	N/A	N/A	Trans.No. 44	Trans.No. 44	N/A	Trans.No. 77
740 High Cap & DDS - Special	N/A	N/A	Trans.No. 48	Trans.No. 48	N/A	Trans.No. 77
750 DS-1 SubCat - Special	N/A	N/A	Trans.No. 48	Trans.No. 48	N/A	Trans.No. 77
760 DS-3 SubCat - Special	N/A	N/A	Trans.No. 44	Trans.No. 44	N/A	Trans.No. 77
770 DDS&Other - Special	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Trans.No. 77
899 Total Special Access	Trans.No. 44	Trans.No. 44	N/A	N/A	Trans.No. 77	Trans.No. 77

Exhibit 3
Revenue Impact

11/16/17

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TRP

Dec 1, 2017 BDS Access Charge TRP Filing (CCPAN167.xls)
IMPACT ANALYSIS FOR INDUSTRY

Basket Description	Demand Times		Difference (C) = (B) - (A)	% Difference (D) = (C)/(A)
	Current Rate (A)	Proposed Rate (B)		
Common Line Basket				
End User Common Line	\$2,989,058	\$2,989,058	\$0	0.00%
Common Line per MOU	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
PICC Common Line	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Other Common Line	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Total Common Line	\$2,989,058	\$2,989,058	\$0	0.00%
Special Access Basket				
VoiceGrade/WATS - NonDZ	\$1,081	\$1,076	(\$5)	-0.46%
Audio & Video - NonDZ	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Total High Cap/DDS	\$123,870	\$123,299	(\$572)	-0.46%
Total High Cap - DS1 - Special	\$93,918	\$93,485	(\$433)	-0.46%
High Cap - DS1 - SP - DZ1	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
High Cap - DS1 - SP - DZ2	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
High Cap - DS1 - SP - DZ3	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
High Cap - DS1 - SP - NonDZ	\$93,918	\$93,485	(\$433)	-0.46%
Total High Cap - DS3 - Special	\$28,705	\$28,573	(\$132)	-0.46%
High Cap - DS3 - SP - DZ1	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
High Cap - DS3 - SP - DZ2	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
High Cap - DS3 - SP - DZ3	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
High Cap - DS3 - SP - Non DZ	\$28,705	\$28,573	(\$132)	-0.46%
High Cap - Digital Data NonDZ	\$1,247	\$1,242	(\$6)	-0.46%
Wideband - Non-Zone	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Total Special Access Basket	\$124,951	\$124,375	(\$577)	-0.46%
Grand Total	\$3,114,010	\$3,113,433	(\$577)	-0.02%