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January 17, 2018

Transmittal No. 1519 - 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. 1519 to submit updated Tariff Review Plan (TRP) Connect America Fund Intercarrier Compensation (CAF ICC) and Connect America Fund Broadband Loop Support (CAF BLS) spreadsheet files, as described below.

Transmittal No. 1519 was originally filed on June 16, 2017, became effective on July 1, 2017, and was amended on July 17, 2017, August 17, 2017, September 18, 2017, October 17, 2017, November 16, 2017, and December 18, 2017. As part of the cost support for Transmittal No. 1519, NECA submitted the required TRP CAF ICC and TRP CAF BLS spreadsheet files for the 2017-2018 tariff test period.

This amendment modifies the TRPCAFICC_Confidential.xlsx files to update the footnote listing those study areas which have requested NECA to tariff lower Access Recovery Charge (ARC) rates than those calculated by NECA to include the following companies:

Table 1

<u>Company Name</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Study Area</u>
Farmers Mutual Telephone Company	IA	351172
Farmers Telephone Company - Riceville	IA	351177
FMTC-I35, Inc.	IA	351209
FMTC-I35, Inc. (SWT)	IA	351301

Coincident with this amendment, NECA is filing tariff revisions today under Transmittal No. 1536 to reduce Residential ARC rates for the companies listed in Table 1.

This amendment also includes updates to the TRPCAFBLS_Confidential.xlsx file to reflect updated Consumer Broadband-Only Loop (CBOL) demand, revenue and/or tariffed rate data for the following companies:

Table 2

<u>Company Name</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Study Area</u>
Albany Mutual Telephone Assn., Inc.	MN	361347
Baldwin Nashville Telephone Company, Inc.	IA	351107
Conneaut Telephone Company	OH	300606
Garden Valley Telephone Company	MN	361395
Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Association	MN	361396
Kalona Cooperative Telephone Company	IA	351214
Rock Port Telephone Company	MO	421942

Coincident with this amendment, NECA is filing tariff revisions today under Transmittal No. 1536 to introduce new or reduce existing CBOL rates for the companies listed in Table 2.

This filing amends Transmittal No. 1519 to submit the file containing updated certifications for the companies listed in Table 2 in Appendix C, Exhibit 4 Accuracy of CAF BLS Data. No changes were made to other companies' certifications previously submitted in the Appendix C Exhibits.

Finally, this amendment resubmits the TRP Text.pdf and TRP_Exhibits.xls files originally filed on June 16, 2017 as amended on July 17, 2017, August 17, 2017, September 18, 2017, October 17, 2017, November 16, 2017 and December 18, 2017. No changes were made to these previously transmitted files other than to reflect today's resubmission.

As was the case with the confidential TRP CAF ICC and TRP CAF BLS data files originally transmitted on June 16, 2017 under Transmittal No. 1519, NECA seeks confidential treatment of this data pursuant to the *Protective Order* designated for use in the 2017 Annual Access Charge Tariff Filings proceeding.¹

Accordingly, the confidential data files have been marked, **“CONTAINS PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION – DO NOT RELEASE (PER DA 17-550 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 tariff filing is being made.

¹ See Announcing Procedures for Obtaining Confidential Information for 2017 Annual Access Charge Tariff Filings and Corrections to TRP Spreadsheets, Public Notice Attachment, WC Docket No. 17-65, 32 FCC Rcd 4740 (2017) *Protective Order*).

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

TRPCAFICC_ConfidentialD.xlsx

TRPCAFICC_ConfidentialE.xlsx

TRPCAFBLS_Confidential.xlsx

Vol1ExhibitsG.pdf

TRP Text.pdf

TRP_Exhibits.xls

TRPCAFICC_PublicA.xlsx

TRPCAFICC_PublicB.xlsx

TRPCAFICC_PublicC.xlsx

TRPCAFICC_PublicD.xlsx

TRPCAFICC_PublicE.xlsx

TRPCAFBLS_Public.xlsx

Request for Confidential Treatment

NECA seeks confidential treatment under the *Protective Order* designated for use in the 2017 Annual Access Charge Tariff Filings proceeding¹ for the data provided in the files identified below. This data is filed electronically via ETFS as part of the Tariff Review Plan for NECA's Tariff F.C.C. No. 5 Annual Tariff filing, made under Transmittal No. 1519. 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 an electronic copy 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 is 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 contain confidential and proprietary financial information of NECA Common Line (CL) and Traffic Sensitive (TS) pool participants:

TRPCAFICC_ConfidentialA.xlsx
TRPCAFICC_ConfidentialB.xlsx
TRPCAFICC_ConfidentialC.xlsx
TRPCAFICC_ConfidentialD.xlsx
TRPCAFICC_ConfidentialE.xlsx
TRPCAFBLS_Confidential.xlsx

¹ See Announcing Procedures for Obtaining Confidential Information for 2017 Annual Access Charge Tariff Filings and Corrections to TRP Spreadsheets, Public Notice Attachment, WC Docket No. 17-65, 32 FCC Rcd 4740 (2017) (*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*, ¶ 1.a.

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

This information includes actual revenues, revenue requirement data and demand for the 2011 fiscal year; trued-up revenues and cost data for the 2015/2016 test period; projections of revenues, cost data and demand for the 2012/2013, 2013/2014, 2014/2015, 2015/2016, 2016/2017, and 2017/2018 test periods; and the product of calculations made using the confidential data.

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.

The 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 2017/2018 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 Annual Access Charge Filing, Transmittal No. 1519 in WC Docket No. 17-65.

- 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 pool participants as required by Commission rules for monitoring compliance with the CAF ICC and CAF BLS recovery mechanisms. At the study area and exchange level, the information is granular and highly confidential to the reporting CL and TS pool participants. The financial data is treated as a confidential trade secret by CL and TS pool 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 pool 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/or TS pool. 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 files as follows:

**CONTAINS PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION – DO NOT
RELEASE (PER DA 17-550 PROTECTIVE ORDER)**

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

⁷ See *Protective Order*, ¶ 16.

FCC Registration Number for Tariff 5 Participants

0001646454	0003741949	0004269833	0002645927
0002645927	0002756187	0002756187	0002756187
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0003764735	0004924809	0004924809	0015034358
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0002432672	0007196207	0004334934	0003732633
0022150361	0022150361	0001726488	0002723773
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0001570936	0001772888	0003732302	0003778594
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0004335816	0001565829	0004339800	0004339784
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0004980843	0001684166	0003723509	0003754652
0003708161	0003766201	0005068341	0004560645
0002723336	0004330205	0004342895	0004381323
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0002549392	0004331682	0005050083	0002713683
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0003777885	0003732609	0003007481	0004928792
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0001701275	0018760876	0003733029	0004374187
0002504298	0001961416	0001855337	0004381422
0003749264	0004329538	0002607224	0004979688
0002405215	0004329611	0003772787	0003772381
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FCC Registration Number for Tariff 5 Participants

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FCC Registration Number for Tariff 5 Participants

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FCC Registration Number for Tariff 5 Participants

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0001607829	0003727575	0003757838	0001623149
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FCC Registration Number for Tariff 5 Participants

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0001607175	0004327011	0004280665	0002587863
0002588333	0006764948	0002898724	0002333888
0001648039	0001731785	0004309522	0001687557
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0004337002	0004313342	0005065552	0004979555
0005017439	0001960962	0004274007	0004329652
0004314050	0001562388	0002549665	0003717949
0004326070	0002502243	0002592921	0002592897
0001569466	0003723236	0003723236	0002901833
0003757788	0001952605	0001952605	0002901817
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0003740446	0004374153	0005010996	0005010996
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0003749645	0003936994	0004331070	0004333043
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FCC Registration Number for Tariff 5 Participants

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