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DOCKET # 32235, 17142
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DOCUMENT # 132746, 132747

RE: Docket No. 17142: Universal Access Fund, De Minimus Claims Under
O.C.G.A. § 46-5-167

Docket No. 32235: Implementation of House Bill 168

ORDER AMENDING CONTRIBUTION FACTOR

O.C.G.A. § 46-5-167 directs the Georgia Public Service Commission ("Commission") to administer the Universal Access Fund ("UAF") and requires all telecommunications companies holding a certificate of authority issued by the Commission to contribute quarterly to the fund.

Due to changes in Georgia law enacted in 2010, the UAF was expanded to allow Tier 2 local exchange carriers to recover revenue losses resulting from reductions in access charges. O.C.G.A. § 46-5-167(d)(2)(A). Georgia law also continues to allow certain Tier 2 local exchange carriers¹ to apply for funding by demonstrating that the "reasonable actual costs to provide basic local exchange services exceed the maximum fixed price permitted for such basic local exchange services." Id.

As a result of the changes in law described above and other factors such as reduced revenues of contributing companies and increased requests for disbursements from the fund, the Commission Staff found that a contribution factor of 0.014 (1.4%) of intrastate gross revenues from end-users is required to adequately fund the UAF for the 15th UAF year. .

The Commission, having had the opportunity to review and consider the recommendation of Staff set forth above, hereby adopts the Staff's recommendation.

¹ O.C.G.A. § 46-5-167(d)(2)(B) applies only to Tier 2 local exchange carriers subject to rate of return regulation.

* * * * *

WHEREFORE, it is


ORDERED, that the contribution factor of 1.4% of intrastate gross revenues from end-users is hereby approved.

ORDERED FURTHER, that all provisions of the previous Orders, not in conflict with the foregoing ordering paragraph in this matter, remain in full force and effect.

ORDERED FURTHER, that any application for rehearing, reconsideration or oral argument and any appeal with respect to this Order shall not serve as a supersedeas and shall not stay this Order unless expressly ordered by this Commission; and

ORDERED FURTHER, that jurisdiction over this matter is expressly retained for the purpose of entering such further Order(s) as this Commission may deem just and proper.

The above action by the Commission during its Administrative Session on December 7, 2010.



Reece McAlister
Executive Secretary

12-10-10
Date



Lauren "Bubba" McDonald, Jr.
Chairman

12-10-10
Date