

NOTICE TO LOCAL SERVICE PROVIDERS REGARDING CURRENT TAP CREDIT AND SURCHARGE AMOUNTS

Issued: May 1, 2017

In the Matter of Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP) Review

PUC Docket Number/s: P999/CI-16-302

Minnesota's Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP) provides monthly bill credits to telephone subscribers in low-income households. The Commission sets, and periodically adjusts, the amount of the monthly bill credit and the amount of the surcharge on wirelines required to fund the program. (See Minnesota Statutes §§ 237.69-71; Minnesota Rules Chapter 7817.)

Minnesota Rules 7817.0700 states that when it appears to the Commission that the revenue generated by the surcharge is inadequate to fund a particular level of TAP credits, or when it determines there will be an unreasonable over collection of surcharge revenues, it may on 30 days notice reduce the credits, increase credits, or adjust the surcharge.

Minnesota Rule 7817.0500 requires surcharges and credits be addressed annually. The Commission holds at least one agenda meeting per year to maintain transparency in its review of TAP surcharges and credits. When possible, the Commission has coordinated changes in the TAP surcharge and credit with changes to the 911 or TAM surcharges. Changes to TAM and 911 surcharges often occur by July 1.

On April 6, 2017, the TAP Administrator filed the TAP July-December 2016 Six Month Review. This review shows existing credit and surcharge levels to be adequate for the TAP Fund to continue meeting requirements at this time. The Commission most recently reviewed and declined to change the credit and surcharge amounts in its Orders of October 11, 2016, and June 23, 2016. Commission staff continue to monitor the TAP Fund and circumstances which might affect its status.

Commission staff hereby notifies local service providers that it recommends no changes to the Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP) credit or surcharge levels prior to July 1, 2017. Local service providers are notified that staff may recommend changes be made at other times during the year if changes in State or Federal law, direction by the courts, or other circumstances would prudently require such action be taken at that time.

If any interested stakeholder believes changes should be made to the credit or surcharge levels before July 1, 2017, it may file comments by May 15, 2017.

Submit Public Comments: Visit mn.gov/puc, select *Speak Up!*, find this docket, and add your comments to the discussion.

- *If you wish to include an exhibit, map or other attachment, please send your comments via U.S. Mail.*

Send U.S. Mail to Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul MN 55101. Please include the Commission's docket number in all communications.

Filing Requirements: Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are **required** to file documents using the Commission's electronic filing system (eFiling). All parties, participants and interested persons are encouraged to use eFiling: mn.gov/puc, select *eFiling*, and follow the prompts.

Full Case Record: See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission's website mn.gov/puc, select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (16) and the docket number (302), select *Search*.

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Questions about this docket or Commission process and procedure? Contact Commission staff Michael McCarthy at 651-201-2208 or michael.mccarthy@state.mn.us, or Theresa Staples at theresa.staples@state.mn.us 651-201-2202.

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