

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Inter-Department Communication

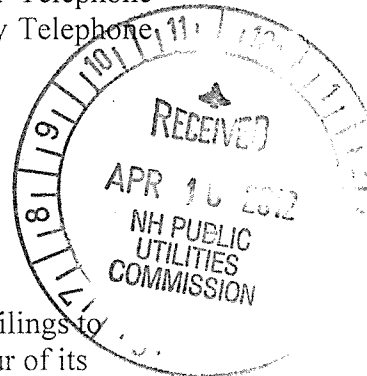
DATE: April 16, 2012

AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

ML
FROM: Michael Ladam, Assistant Director, Telecommunications

SUBJECT: DT 12-076, TDS Telecommunications, Inc. – Tariff Revisions
Establishing Charges for VoIP/PSTN Traffic for Wilton Telephone
Company, Hollis Telephone Company, Merrimack County Telephone
Company and Kearsarge Telephone Company

TO: Commissioners
Debra Howland, Executive Director
Kate Bailey, Director, Telecommunications Division
Matthew Fossum, Staff Attorney



On March 26, 2012, TDS Telecommunications, Inc., submitted tariff filings to establish a process for identifying and rating VoIP/PSTN access traffic for four of its operating companies: Wilton Telephone Company, Hollis Telephone Company, Merrimack County Telephone Company and Kearsarge Telephone Company.

The proposed revisions, which are essentially identical for each of the operating companies, address new requirements by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regarding VoIP traffic charges. The proposed revisions include provisions requiring the operating companies' wholesale customers to furnish percentages of VoIP traffic in their overall minutes of use, and provisions setting a default percentage in the event a customer does not provide the percentages. The revisions also call upon the operating companies to apply the customer-supplied percentages to the dedicated facilities between the individual companies and their customers.

When the wholesale customer does not provide a VoIP percentage, the tariff uses the percentage of VoIP traffic that TDS generates. This is the same approach that FairPoint uses in its similar tariff, which the Commission allowed to take effect by Secretarial Letter of January 26, 2012 (Docket DT 11-289).

Staff raised a concern with TDS regarding the deadline by which wholesale customers were required to submit initial percentage figures. At Staff's recommendation TDS agreed to extend that deadline to May 25, 2012 (revision filed April 4, 2012).

With that change, Staff believes the tariff should be allowed to take effect as proposed on April 25, 2012.