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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Inter-Department Communication

DATE: July 25, 2013
AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

FROM: Leszek Stachow, Analyst 

SUBJECT: DT 13-200 Northland Telephone Company of Maine, Inc.
d/b/a/FairPoint Communications
Petition to introduce new residential bundles called Voice Advantage II, and correcting its stated rate for Voice Advantage Service.

TO: Commission
Debra Howland, Executive Director

On July 17, 2013, Northland Telephone Company of Maine, Inc. d/b/a/FairPoint Communications (Northland) filed a petition seeking to introduce new residential bundles called Voice Advantage II.

These bundles will provide residential customers with the option of subscribing to service packages that provide the following: dial tone access line, local usage, IntraLATA toll usage and InterLATA toll usage for a single bundled rate.

In addition, FairPoint is seeking to correct its stated rate for Voice Advantage whereby the intraLATA and interLATA rate components have been removed from the rate, since they are stated in the long distance company's Rate Schedules. IntraLATA and interLATA rate components are handled by FairPoint's affiliated company UI Long Distance. The total bundled price for Voice Advantage remains unchanged for all customers.

Following Staff investigation, it was determined that Voice Advantage II Bundles are only available to residential customers who are presubscribed to UI Long Distance, Inc as their primary interexchange carrier for both IntraLATA and InterLATA calling. Additionally, based on the cost support furnished by FairPoint with the filing, Staff confirmed that the prices for Voice Advantage II Plans are greater than the costs as calculated by FairPoint. Finally Staff verified that there are no termination fees associated with the VA II Bundles, thereby permitting customers to switch services with no penalties.

Accordingly, Staff recommends that the Commission allow the proposed tariff revisions to go into effect.