



PUBLIC NOTICE

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WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU ANNOUNCES POSTING OF 2025 TARIFF REVIEW PLAN FOR EXOGENOUS COST FILINGS BY RATE-OF-RETURN CARRIERS THAT ELECTED INCENTIVE REGULATION FOR BUSINESS DATA SERVICES

WC Docket Nos. 25-94, 17-144

By this Public Notice, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) announces the release of the 2025 tariff review plan (TRP) workbooks for rate-of-return local exchange carriers (carriers) that elected incentive regulation for their business data services (BDS) pursuant to the *Rate-of-Return BDS Order* to calculate exogenous cost adjustments to their tariffed BDS rates.¹ The TRP workbooks are posted on the Commission's website at: <https://www.fcc.gov/wireline-competition/2025-2026-trp-midcourse-exogenous-cost-filings>.

The *2025 Tariff Review Plan Order* requires rate-of-return carriers that elected BDS incentive regulation to file TRP workbooks reflecting any exogenous cost adjustment for Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS), North American Numbering Plan Administration (NANPA), and regulatory fees in BDS rates to be effective October 1, 2025.² The TRP workbooks adjust BDS rates using the most recent factors for TRS contribution fees, NANPA contribution fees, and regulatory fees for interstate telecommunications service providers.³ The TRP workbooks gross-up the going-forward exogenous cost adjustment to BDS rates for TRS and remove the gross-up amounts for NANPA and regulatory fees from existing rates. As the Bureau explained in the *2025 Tariff Review Plan Order*, the exogenous cost adjustment for TRS must be "grossed up" to spread the entire adjustment over the remaining months in the tariff year.⁴ Additionally, exogenous cost adjustments for regulatory fees and NANPA fees reflected

¹ *Regulation of Business Data Services for Rate-of-Return Local Exchange Carriers*, WC Docket No. 17-144, Report and Order, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 33 FCC Rcd 10403 (2018) (*Rate-of-Return BDS Order*); see 47 CFR § 61.50. *But see Regulation of Business Data Services for Rate-of-Return Local Exchange Carriers et al.*, WC Docket Nos. 21-17 and 17-144, FCC 25-44, 2025 WL 2319168 (rel. Aug. 8, 2025) (seeking comment on eliminating ex ante pricing regulation and tariffing obligations for rate-of-return carriers' BDS).

² See *July 1, 2025 Annual Access Charge Tariff Filings*, WC Docket No. 25-94, Order, DA 25-397, 2025 WL 2144543, at *14-15, para. 42 (WCB May 16, 2025) (*2025 Tariff Review Plan Order*).

³ See *Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities, et al.*, CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51, Order, DA 25-578, at *1, para. 1 (CGB July 7, 2025) (approving a carrier contribution factor of 0.00025 for TRS support provided through state programs, and a carrier contribution factor of 0.02086 for Internet-based TRS support—IP captioned telephone service (or CTS), IP relay, and video relay service (or VRS)); *Wireline Competition Bureau Announces the Proposed North American Numbering Plan Administration Fund Size Estimate and Contribution Factor for October 2025 Through September 2026*, CC Docket No. 92-237, Public Notice, DA 25-639, at *2 (WCB July 17, 2025) (proposing a NANPA contribution factor of 0.0001091 that was adopted by operation of law); *Review of the Commission's Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2025 et al.*, MD Docket No. 25-190 et al., Report and Order, FCC 25-52, at 37, Appx. B (Aug. 29, 2025) (adopting a fiscal year 2025 regulatory fee (per revenue dollar) for interstate telecommunications service providers of \$0.005125).

⁴ *2025 Tariff Review Plan Order* at *14-15, para. 42.

in rates effective November 1, 2024⁵ are required by the Commission's rules to be "grossed up" to spread the entire adjustments over the remaining 11 months of fiscal year 2025 (November 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025) as regulatory fees and NANPA fees are fiscal year obligations.⁶ The Commission's rules require these gross-up amounts to be removed from rates effective October 1, 2025.⁷

The TRP workbooks posted on the Commission's website were prepared by the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA) for electing carriers for which NECA files BDS rates and are designed to ensure that carriers make exogenous cost and rate adjustments in accordance with the Commission's rules.⁸ Carriers that do not participate in the NECA tariff should also file a TRP.⁹ Commission staff reviewed the TRP workbooks released today and carriers are encouraged to use them. Carriers may alternatively create and submit their own TRP workbooks, as long as those TRP workbooks comply with the Commission's rules. Carriers should submit their TRP workbooks, data, and formulas in an Excel format rather than a PDF format.¹⁰ For exogenous cost tariff filings to be effective October 1, 2025, tariff filings made on 15 days' notice are due on September 16, 2025 and tariff filings made on 7 days' notice are due on September 24, 2025.¹¹

Consistent with the *2025 Tariff Review Plan Order*, the October 1, 2025 exogenous cost filing and rate adjustment is optional for electing carriers if the total amount of such exogenous cost adjustments would either increase rates or meet a *de minimis* threshold of \$1,040.00, which is the current standard tariff filing fee.¹² Finally, we remind carriers submitting tariff revisions reflecting exogenous cost adjustments that they must pay the \$1,040.00 standard tariff filing fee through the payment system in the Commission's Registration System (CORES).¹³

For further information, please contact Christopher Koves, Pricing Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, (202) 418-8209, Christopher.Koves@fcc.gov; or Richard Kwiatkowski, Economic Analysis Division, Office of Economics and Analytics, (202) 418-1383, Richard.Kwiatkowski@fcc.gov.

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⁵ In 2024, the Bureau established November 1, 2024 as the effective date for tariff filings implementing mid-year 2024 exogenous cost adjustments. See *July 1, 2024 Annual Access Charge Tariff Filings*, WC Docket No. 24-41, Order, DA 24-877, 2024 WL 4145056, at *1, para. 1 (WCB/PPD Sept. 9, 2024) (*Extension Order*).

⁶ *2025 Tariff Review Plan Order* at *14-15, paras. 41-42; *Extension Order* at *3, para. 6; *Wireline Competition Bureau Announces Posting of 2024 Tariff Review Plan For Exogenous Cost Filings by Rate-of-Return Carriers That Elected Incentive Regulation For Business Data Services*, WC Docket Nos. 24-41, 17-144, Public Notice, DA 24-988, 2024 WL 4359895, at *1 (WCB Sept. 27, 2024).

⁷ See 47 CFR § 61.45(a) ("Price cap local exchange carriers . . . shall maintain updated PCIs to reflect the effect of midyear exogenous cost changes"); *id.* § 61.45(b)(1)(i), (d); *id.* § 61.50(c); see also *2025 Tariff Review Plan Order* at *14-15, para. 42.

⁸ See 47 CFR § 61.50(c).

⁹ See *2025 Tariff Review Plan Order* at *15, para. 43. Carriers that elected BDS incentive regulation should complete and file one of two Excel workbooks: (1) the "TY 2025-2026 Individual Study Area BDS Midcourse TRP" workbook is for carriers that establish a Price Cap Index (PCI), Actual Price Index (API), Service Band Indices (SBIs), and upper SBI limits separately for each study area; or (2) the "TY 2025-2026 Holding Company BDS Midcourse TRP" workbook is for carriers that establish a PCI, API, SBIs and upper SBI limits at the holding company level.

¹⁰ *2025 Tariff Review Plan Order* at *15, para. 44.

¹¹ See 47 U.S.C. § 204(a)(3); 47 CFR § 61.58(a)(2)(i).

¹² See *id.* at *15, para. 43; 47 CFR § 1.1105.

¹³ See 47 CFR § 1.1105; FCC, Commission Registration System for the FCC, <https://www.fcc.gov/licensing-databases/commission-registration-system-fcc> (last visited Aug. 19, 2025).