

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)
July 1, 2026)
Annual Access Charge Tariff Filings)
WC Docket No. 26-50

ORDER

Adopted: March 25, 2026

Released: March 25, 2026

By the Chief, Pricing Policy Division:

15-DAY TARIFF FILINGS: June 16, 2026
EFFECTIVE: July 1, 2026
PETITIONS: June 23, 2026
REPLIES: June 29, 2026 (due no later than 12:00 p.m. (noon) Eastern Time)

7-DAY TARIFF FILINGS: June 24, 2026
EFFECTIVE: July 1, 2026
PETITIONS: June 29, 2026 (due no later than 12:00 p.m. (noon) Eastern Time)
REPLIES: June 30, 2026 (due no later than 12:00 p.m. (noon) Eastern Time)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In this Order, we remind incumbent local exchange carriers (LECs or carriers) of existing procedures under the Commission’s rules for filing carriers’ 2026 annual access charge tariffs and tariff review plans (TRPs).1 Specifically, we: (1) remind carriers that the effective date for the 2026 annual access charge tariff filings is July 1, 2026; (2) remind interested parties of the deadlines for filing petitions to suspend or reject a carrier’s 2026 annual access charge tariff filing and replies to such petitions;2 and (3) remind interested parties of existing procedures for service of the petitions and replies.

2. In the USF/ICC Transformation Order, the Commission adopted rules requiring incumbent LECs to reduce, over a period of years, many of their switched access rates.3 That rate transition ended in 2020.4 In the USF/ICC Transformation Order, the Commission also established

1 See 47 CFR §§ 61.38 (rate-of-return carriers that file tariffs based on projected costs and demand), 61.39 (rate-of-return carriers that file tariffs based on historical costs and demand), 61.43 (tariff filings for price cap carriers), and 61.50 (regulation of business data services offered by rate-of-return carriers electing incentive regulation).

2 See 47 CFR § 1.773.

3 Connect America Fund et al., WC Docket No. 10-90, et al., Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 26 FCC Rcd 17663, 17677, 17934-35, 18149, paras. 36, 801 & fig. 9, 1404 (2011) (USF/ICC Transformation Order), pets. for review denied sub nom. In re: FCC 11-161, 753 F.3d 1015 (10th Cir. 2014); 47 CFR §§ 51.915, 51.917; see Reforming Legacy Rules for an All-IP Future, Accelerating Network Modernization, WC Docket Nos. 25-311 & 25-208, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 26-11, 2026 WL 567517 (rel. Feb. 19, 2026) (proposing comprehensive reform of the regulatory framework for voice telecommunications rates).

4 Price cap carriers were required to transition certain tariffed switched access rates effective July 1 on each of those years to bill-and-keep (\$0) over a six-year period that ended in 2018. Rate-of-return carriers were required to transition certain tariffed switched access rates effective July 1 on each of those years to bill-and-keep (\$0) over a

(continued....)

Eligible Recovery which enables incumbent LECs to recover a decreasing portion of their lost revenue attributable to the required switched access rate reductions.⁵ We rely on TRP worksheets⁶ submitted by filing carriers to confirm that the annual adjustments to Eligible Recovery have been implemented in accordance with the Commission's rules.⁷ All correspondence and comments in connection with these filings should refer to the caption of this proceeding, *July 1, 2026 Annual Access Charge Tariff Filings*, WC Docket No. 26-50.

II. DISCUSSION

A. Tariff Effective Dates and Tariff Filing Dates

3. The Commission's rules generally require carriers to file annual access charge tariffs with a scheduled effective date of July 1.⁸ The Commission's rules, however, do not preclude the filing of revisions to annual tariffs effective on dates other than July 1.⁹ Carriers may submit their annual tariff filings on a streamlined basis pursuant to section 204(a)(3) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the Act), either 15 or 7 days prior to the scheduled effective date of their tariff revisions, depending on the type of changes they propose to make.¹⁰ Unless the Commission takes action during the relevant statutory notice periods, rates contained in annual tariff filings filed 15 days (for rate increases) or 7 days (for rate reductions) prior to the effective date are "deemed lawful."¹¹ For the 2026 tariff filings, carriers filing tariffs on 15-days' notice must submit their annual tariff filings on June 16, 2026 to be effective July 1, 2026. Carriers filing tariffs on 7-days' notice must submit their annual tariff filings on June 24, 2026 to be effective July 1, 2026.

4. We remind carriers that file tariffs under the price cap ratemaking methodology that they are required to file revised annual access charge tariffs every year.¹² We remind carriers that file tariffs under a rate-of-return ratemaking methodology that they are required to file every other year. Therefore, carriers filing pursuant to the requirements of section 61.38 of the Commission's rules are required to file annual access charge tariffs this year, an even-numbered year.¹³ Ordinarily, rate-of-return carriers subject

nine-year period that ended in 2020. *See USF/ICC Transformation Order*, 26 FCC Rcd at 17934-96, para. 801, fig. 9; 47 CFR §§ 51.907(h), 51.909(j).

⁵ *USF/ICC Transformation Order*, 26 FCC Rcd at 17677, 17956-96, paras. 36, 847-923; 47 CFR §§ 51.915, 51.917.

⁶ Commission staff works with industry to prepare updated TRP worksheets every year. TRP worksheets collect and display the information necessary to calculate Eligible Recovery in a consistent manner, facilitating review by Commission staff and interested parties. Carriers are free, however, to create and use their own TRPs, as long as those TRPs comply with the Commission's rules. *See July 1, 2022 Annual Access Charge Tariff Filings*, WC Docket No. 22-108, Order, 37 FCC Rcd 5972, 5972, para. 2 (PPD 2022).

⁷ *See USF/ICC Transformation Order*, 26 FCC Rcd at 18149, para. 1404 (delegating authority to the Wireline Competition Bureau, as appropriate, to implement the rules adopted in the *USF/ICC Transformation Order*).

⁸ *See* 47 CFR § 69.3(a).

⁹ 47 CFR § 69.3(b).

¹⁰ 47 U.S.C. § 204(a)(3) ("A local exchange carrier may file with the Commission a new or revised charge, classification, regulation, or practice on a streamlined basis...[which]...shall be deemed lawful and shall be effective 7 days (in the case of a reduction in rates) or 15 days (in the case of an increase in rates) after the date on which it is filed with the Commission unless the Commission takes action...before the end of that 7-day or 15-day period, as is appropriate."); 47 CFR § 61.58(a)(2)(i).

¹¹ 47 U.S.C. § 204(a)(3).

¹² 47 CFR § 61.43.

¹³ 47 CFR §§ 61.38, 69.3(f)(1).

to section 61.39 of the Commission's rules¹⁴ would not be required to file annual access charge tariffs this year, because they file revisions in odd-numbered years.¹⁵ Pursuant to the *USF/ICC Transformation Order*, however, we remind rate-of-return carriers subject to section 61.39 of the Commission's rules that they must submit tariff filings each year, including this year, to comply with the requirements of section 51.917(d)(1)(iv), (e), and (f) of the Commission's rules.¹⁶

B. Tariff and Tariff Review Plan Filing Instructions

5. We remind carriers that they must file their tariff materials through the Commission's Electronic Tariff Filing System (ETFS)¹⁷ and submit the associated complex tariff filing fee payment through the Commission's Registration System (CORES).¹⁸ Carriers should make every effort to file as early in the day as possible to avoid any complications in meeting the applicable filing deadlines. We remind carriers submitting 15-days' notice tariff filings that these filings must be received by ETFS after 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time on June 15, 2026 and before 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time on June 16, 2026 for the filing to be considered officially received on June 16, 2026.¹⁹ We remind carriers submitting 7-days' notice tariff filings that these filings must be received after 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time on June 23, 2026 and before 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time on June 24, 2026 for the filing to be considered officially received on June 24, 2026.²⁰

6. The public and interested parties may obtain copies of tariffing materials through ETFS. For more information, please contact either Christopher S. Koves, Pricing Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, Christopher.Koves@fcc.gov, or Richard Kwiatkowski, Economic Analysis Division, Office of Economics and Analytics, Richard.Kwiatkowski@fcc.gov.

C. Pleading Filing Dates and Procedures

7. We remind interested parties that petitions to suspend or reject 15 days' notice tariff filings will be due no later than 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time on June 23, 2026, and replies will be due no later than 12:00 p.m. (noon) Eastern Time on June 29, 2026.²¹ We remind interested parties that petitions to suspend or reject 7-days' notice tariff filings will be due no later than 12:00 p.m. (noon) Eastern Time on June 29, 2026, and replies will be due no later than 12:00 p.m. (noon) Eastern Time on June 30, 2026.²² We waive, on our own motion, those portions of sections 1.4(f) and 1.773 of the Commission's rules that are inconsistent with these deadlines.²³

8. Pursuant to sections 1.419 and 1.773 of the Commission's rules, interested parties may file petitions to suspend or reject tariff filings, and replies thereto, on or before the dates indicated in this

¹⁴ 47 CFR § 61.39.

¹⁵ 47 CFR § 69.3(f)(2).

¹⁶ 47 CFR § 51.917(d)(1)(iv), (e), (f).

¹⁷ See 47 CFR § 61.13(b). Access to ETFS is available here: <https://apps.fcc.gov/etfs/etfsHome.action>.

¹⁸ 47 CFR § 1.1105. For more information about the CORES Payment System, please visit: <https://www.fcc.gov/licensing-databases/fees/cores-payment-system>.

¹⁹ See 47 CFR § 1.4(f) (noting Commission's pre-7:00 p.m. deadline).

²⁰ *Id.*

²¹ See 47 CFR § 1.773(a)(2)(iii), (b)(1)(iii); *id.* § 1.4(j) (if the filing date falls on a holiday, the document shall be filed on the next business day); *id.* § 1.4(e)(1) (defining "holiday" as including a Saturday or Sunday).

²² See 47 CFR § 1.773(a)(2)(i), (b)(1)(i); *id.* § 1.4(j).

²³ See 47 CFR §§ 1.3, 1.4(f), 1.773(a), (b).

Order.²⁴ Pleadings must reference **WC Docket No. 26-50** and must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.

- *Electronic Filers*: Pleadings may be filed electronically using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS): www.fcc.gov/ecfs.²⁵
- *Paper Filers*: Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and one copy of each filing.
 - Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial courier, or by the U.S. Postal Service.
 - Hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary are accepted between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. by the FCC's mailing contractor at 9050 Junction Drive, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes and boxes must be disposed of before entering the building.
 - Commercial courier deliveries (any deliveries not by the U.S. Postal Service) must be sent to 9050 Junction Drive, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701.
 - Filings sent by U.S. Postal Service First-Class Mail, Priority Mail, and Priority Mail Express must be sent to 45 L Street NE, Washington, DC 20554.

9. *People with Disabilities*. To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, *electronic* files, audio format), send an email to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530 (voice), 202-418-0432 (TTY).

10. *Courtesy Copies*. On the day an electronic filing is submitted, an electronic courtesy copy of any comments, reply comments, petitions, and replies, must also be emailed to Christopher Koves, Christopher.Koves@fcc.gov, and Richard Kwiatkowski, Richard.Kwiatkowski@fcc.gov.

11. *Ex Parte Rules*. The proceeding this Order initiates shall be treated as a "permit-but-disclose" proceeding in accordance with the Commission's *ex parte* rules.²⁶ Persons making *ex parte* presentations must file a copy of any written presentation or a memorandum summarizing any oral presentation within two business days after the presentation (unless a different deadline applicable to the Sunshine period applies). Persons making oral *ex parte* presentations are reminded that memoranda summarizing the presentation must (1) list all persons attending or otherwise participating in the meeting at which the *ex parte* presentation was made, and (2) summarize all data presented and arguments made during the presentation. If the presentation consisted in whole or in part of the presentation of data or arguments already reflected in the presenter's written comments, memoranda or other filings in the proceeding, the presenter may provide citations to such data or arguments in his or her prior comments, memoranda, or other filings (specifying the relevant page and/or paragraph numbers where such data or arguments can be found) in lieu of summarizing them in the memorandum. Documents shown or given to Commission staff during *ex parte* meetings are deemed to be written *ex parte* presentations and must be filed consistent with rule 1.1206(b). In proceedings governed by rule 1.49(f) or for which the Commission has made available a method of electronic filing, written *ex parte* presentations and memoranda summarizing oral *ex parte* presentations, and all attachments thereto, must be filed in their native format (e.g., .doc, .xml, .ppt, searchable .pdf). Participants in this proceeding should familiarize themselves with the Commission's *ex parte* rules.

²⁴ *Id.* §§ 1.419, 1.773.

²⁵ See *Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings*, 63 FR 24121 (1998).

²⁶ 47 CFR § 1.1200 *et seq.*

D. Service

12. Because there is limited time available for review of petitions to suspend or reject tariff filings made pursuant to this Order, we remind interested parties of the following service requirements for such petitions and responses thereto. We remind any party filing a petition to suspend or reject such a tariff filing that they must also serve that petition on the relevant tariff-filer, or the tariff-filer's attorney or other duly-constituted agent, by personal delivery, facsimile transmission, or email.²⁷ We also remind parties responding to a petition to suspend or reject a tariff filing that they must serve their response on the relevant petitioner, or the petitioner's attorney or other duly-constituted agent, by personal delivery, facsimile transmission, or email. To effectuate these service requirements, we waive, on our own motion, those portions of sections 1.47(d), 1.773(a)(4) and 1.773(b)(3) of the Commission's rules that are inconsistent with the requirements set forth above.²⁸ Parties are instructed to provide contact persons, email addresses, and facsimile numbers in their filings.

III. ORDERING CLAUSES

13. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that, pursuant to sections 1, 4(i) and (j), 5, and 201-209 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 151, 154(i)-(j), 155, 201-209, and sections 0.91 and 0.291 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR §§ 0.91, 0.291, this Order IS ADOPTED.

14. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, pursuant to sections 0.91, 0.291, and 1.3 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR §§ 0.91, 0.291, 1.3, that sections 1.4(f), 1.47(d), and 1.773 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR §§ 1.4(f), 1.47(d), 1.773, ARE WAIVED for the limited purposes specified herein in paragraphs 7 and 12.

15. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, pursuant to section 1.102(b)(1) of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR § 1.102(b)(1), this Order SHALL BE EFFECTIVE upon release.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Lynne H. Engledow
Chief, Pricing Policy Division
Wireline Competition Bureau

²⁷ See *id.* § 1.773(a)(4), (b)(3).

²⁸ *Id.* §§ 1.3, 1.47(d), 1.773(a)(4), (b)(3).