

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Commission Advisory and Compliance Division
Telecommunications BranchRESOLUTION T-14267
January 15, 1991R E S O L U T I O N

RESOLUTION T-14267. U S WEST CELLULAR OF CALIFORNIA,
RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING CELLULAR RADIOTELEPHONE SERVICE
DOWNWARD PRICING FLEXIBILITY PER TEMPORARY TARIFF AUTHORITY
PURSUANT TO ORDERING PARAGRAPH NO. 8 OF DECISION 90-06-025,
AS MODIFIED BY DECISION 90-10-047.

BY ADVICE LETTER No. 31, FILED ON OCTOBER 25, 1990.

SUMMARY

This Resolution authorizes U S West Cellular of California to exercise downward pricing flexibility to its cellular radiotelephone service per Decision 90-06-025, as modified by Decision 90-10-047. This authority allows U S West Cellular of California to make temporary tariff filings for reductions of up to ten percent (10%) of its average customer bill. This resolution also addresses the protest filed by Cellular Resellers Association, Inc.

BACKGROUND

Decision (D.) 90-06-025, as modified by D.90-10-047, authorized cellular radiotelephone utilities (resellers and facility-based carriers) to make rate reduction tariff filings which will not affect an average customer's bill by more than ten percent (10%). Such offers can be classified as a temporary tariff and made effective on the date filed. According to Ordering Paragraph 8.b.(2) of the modified Decision:

"If a protest is filed, the tariff shall remain a temporary tariff until the protest has been resolved or by order of the Commission; if, within six months of the filing of the temporary tariff, no resolution of the protest takes place and the Commission does not act, the protest shall be deemed denied and the tariff shall be classified as a permanent tariff pursuant to the terms of the tariff provisions."

The Commission requires cellular utilities, prior to making use of such temporary tariff filings, to make annual filings to establish a range of its downward pricing flexibility. The initial filing shall be effective only upon Commission resolution; subsequent filings to renew this authority shall be 40-day effective date advice letters.

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The Commission also requires that the advice letters requesting temporary tariff authority contain calculations sufficient to support the requested range of flexibility. Utilities can request less than the maximum ten percent of the expected customer revenues as the allowed range, but must file a further advice letter if they wish later to expand the range.

On October 25, 1990, U S West Cellular of California (U S West), a facilities-based carrier in the San Diego MSA, filed Advice Letter No. 31 requesting the maximum pricing flexibility authorized by D.90-06-025. U S West submitted certain proprietary information to the Commission Advisory and Compliance Division (CACD), under seal of confidential treatment pursuant to General Order No. 66-C, to support its requested range of pricing flexibility.

PROTESTS

The California Resellers Association, Inc. (CRA), on November 14, 1990 filed a protest to U S West's Advice Letter No. 31. CRA claims that U S West's request for temporary tariff authority is not in compliance with D. 90-06-025 and that the Commission will be unable to make a determination on the reasonableness of U S West's rates. CRA requests that all supporting information filed by U S West with CACD be released to CRA.

U S West responded to the protest on November 21, 1990 but did not release any proprietary information to CRA.

DISCUSSION

In Resolution T-14126, dated September 12, 1990, the first resolution granting temporary tariff filing authority, the Commission encouraged the sharing of supporting information submitted under seal of confidential treatment between parties through a mutually satisfactory nondisclosure agreement. To avoid any further conflict on this issue, we are as a standard procedure providing in our resolution a summary of the methodology of calculation, period used to estimate requested average customer bill, the components of the retail average customer bill, and the range of the average monthly bill. In doing this, we dismiss CRA's protest.

In determining its monthly retail subscriber bill, U S West took the average of its service revenue for the period of February 1990 to August 1990. The average monthly retail subscriber bill was found to be in the range of \$80 to \$120.

CACD has reviewed the submitted information supporting the requested range of downward pricing flexibility and finds it to be sufficient.

D.90-06-025 does not permit cellular facilities-based carriers to use temporary tariffs to make rate changes that reduce the current margin between wholesale and retail rates until revisions to the cellular Uniform System of Accounts (USOA) which would establish cost-allocation methods for any carrier's wholesale and retail operations are authorized. Furthermore, temporary tariff

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filings as authorized by D.90-06-025 shall not be used to increase any rate element. We will reiterate these constraints to U S West in our approval of its request for temporary tariff authority.

FINDINGS

- 1.) We find that U S West has submitted sufficient information and calculations in its Advice Letter No. 31 and associated proprietary submittal to CACD to support the requested range of downward pricing flexibility.
- 2.) Temporary tariff filings may not be used to increase any rate element.
- 3.) Temporary tariff filings shall not be used to make rate changes that reduce the current margins between wholesale and retail rates until a revised USOA has been ordered by the Commission.
- 4.) The protest by CRA is dismissed.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

1. U S West Cellular of California is authorized to file, as temporary tariffs effective immediately, rate reductions which will not impact an average customer's bill by more than 10% at any one time.
2. Such temporary tariff filings shall become permanent pursuant to the conditions established in Ordering Paragraph No. 8 of Commission Decision 90-06-025, as modified by Decision 90-10-047.
3. This temporary tariff authority is valid for the period of one year from the effective date of this Resolution and may be renewed annually by 40-day effective date advice letters.
4. U S West Cellular of California shall not use temporary tariffs to make rate changes that reduce the current margins between wholesale and retail rates until a revised USOA is put in place by further Commission decision.

I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its regular meeting on January 15, 1991. The following Commissioners approved it:

PATRICIA M. ECKERT
President
G. MITCHELL WILK
JOHN B. OHANIAN
Commissioners


NEAL J. SHULMAN
Executive Director