

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Telecommunications Branch
Commission Advisory and Compliance Division
RESOLUTION T-14532
July 24, 1991

R E S O L U T I O N

RESOLUTION T-14532. CAL-COM RADIOTELEPHONE SERVICE (U-2005-C). REQUEST AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH A SURCHARGE FOR EXCESSIVE CALL USAGE IN THE UTILITY'S CERTIFICATED SERVICE AREA.

BY ADVICE LETTER No. 26; FILED ON February 28, 1991.

SUMMARY

This Resolution authorizes Cal-Com Radiotelephone Service (Cal-Com) to implement a \$1.00 surcharge per message, over the first 1000 messages per unit, per month, applicable to any customer taking service under "unlimited" paging service. This surcharge will not be applied to subscribers who use their pagers in or for public emergencies, for public health or public safety purposes, or in the medical profession.

BACKGROUND

Cal-Com Radiotelephone Service (Cal-Com/utility) is a radiotelephone telecommunications utility providing one-way and two-way mobile radiotelephone service in Imperial and Riverside Counties. The proposed surcharge is to dissuade the use of paging services for drug related purposes. These charges will not apply to subscribers who use their pagers in or for public emergencies, for public health or public safety purposes, or in the medical profession.

NOTICE

As required by Commission General Order 96-A, Section III-G, copies of this advice letter and related tariff sheets were mailed to competing and adjacent utilities on the date filed. In addition, Cal-Com provided a notice of the proposed rate increase to each customer on June 1, 1991. No protests were received.

DISCUSSION

Cal-Com requests this surcharge because it believes that the average paging user subsidizes the disproportionate user of its services. Cal-Com also claims that implementation of this

surcharge is aimed at discouraging the use of paging facilities for possible illegal activities, such as drug trafficking. It provided data to show that its customers receive 40 pages per month on the average, which is far below the 1000 pages per month limit it wishes to impose on its "unlimited" users. The 1000 pages per month limit amounts to about 32 messages per day.

Cal-Com estimates the number of affected subscribers will be insignificant. Only one customer exceeded 1000 pages during the March 23, 1991 to April 22, 1991 billing period. Assuming that this customer will continue to receive over 1000 pages per month, Cal-Com estimates an annual revenue impact of \$2,300. However, the desired effect of this surcharge is to prevent that limit from being reached, thereby resulting in no revenue effect.

FINDINGS

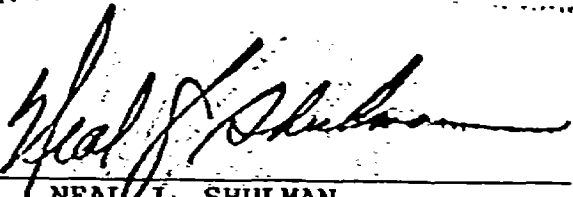
1. Cal-Com proposes to charge for disproportionate use of its one-way paging services.
2. Exception will be made for subscribers who use the service in public emergencies, for public health and safety purposes, and the medical profession.
3. The proposed surcharge by Cal-Com for disproportionate use of its one-way paging services is justified and the resulting rates are reasonable.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Advice Letter No. 26 of Cal-Com Radiotelephone Service filed February 28, 1991, is made effective today.
2. This Resolution is effective today.

I certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its regular meeting on July 24, 1991. The following Commissioners approved it:

PATRICIA M. ECKERT
President
G. MITCHELL WILK
JOHN B. OHANIAN
DANIEL Wm. FESSLER
NORMAN D. SHUMWAY
Commissioners


NEAL J. SHULMAN
Executive Director