

PROJECT NO. 50796

REVIEW OF TUSF RATE

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PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

OF TEXAS

ORDER CHANGING THE TUSF ASSESSMENT

The Commission adopts an assessment rate of 24% for the Texas Universal Service Fund (TUSF) effective August 1, 2022.

The current funding requirement for the TUSF under 16 Texas Administrative Code § 26.420(e), requires an increase to the assessment rate. The Commission adopts an assessment rate of 24% to meet current funding requirements, to start paying amounts that have been short-paid due to inadequate balances in the fund, and to establish an appropriate reserve balance. The assessment rate shall be increased from 3.3% to 24% effective August 1, 2022.

Under 16 Texas Administrative Code § 26.420(f)(6), a telecommunications provider may recover its TUSF assessments by surcharging their retail customers who are subject to tax under chapter 151 of the Texas Tax Code. The amount of the surcharge is limited to 24% of customers' taxable intrastate telecommunications service receipts and must be calculated using the same methodology a telecommunications provider uses in determining its assessments. Telecommunications providers that surcharge customers must include the following notice language as a bill message or billing insert in the first customer bill containing the revised surcharge:

“The Texas Universal Service Fund assessment rate has been increased from 3.3% to 24% effective August 1, 2022.”

A telecommunications provider subject to the filing requirements of 16 Texas Administrative Code § 26.89 or § 26.207 that surcharges its customers must file a copy of its notice, along with a revised compliance tariff, schedule, or price list in Project No 53808 -- *Compliance Proceeding to Implement Order in Project No. 50796, Review of the TUSF Rate*, on or before July 18, 2022.

Those filings must be processed in accordance with the following schedule:

Procedural Timeline	
Date	Action
July 18, 2022	Parties file notices and tariff revisions
July 19, 2022	Intervention Deadline
July 22, 2022	Commission Staff Final Recommendation
July 26, 2022	Docket Management issues final approval of tariffs
August 1, 2022	Effective date of tariffs

Signed at Austin, Texas the 14th day of July 2022.

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS

PETER M. LAKE, CHAIRMAN

WILL MCADAMS, COMMISSIONER

LORI COBOS, COMMISSIONER

JIMMY GLOTFELTY, COMMISSIONER