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is our business.

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VIA OVERNIGHT MAIL

May 4, 2016

Mr. Darrell Nitschke  
Executive Secretary  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
State Capitol  
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Twelfth Floor  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Re: BEK Communications Cooperative  
Local Exchange Price Schedule

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

John Staurulakis, Inc. (“JSI”) files the enclosed tariff material on behalf of BEK Communications Cooperative (“BEK”). Revisions are proposed to flat rate residence and business basic telephone service rates and the associated flat rate extended area service charges. As the proposed revisions include price increases of essential services as defined in NDCC § 49-21-01, this filing is made on at least twenty days’ notice pursuant to NDCC § 49-21-04. Proposed revisions bear an effective date of June 1, 2016. An original and six (6) copies are provided as well as an electronic copy.

Proposed revisions are made for several reasons. BEK’s current local rates do not meet the local rate floor established by the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) in its USF/ICC Transformation Order.<sup>1</sup> The FCC will reduce universal service support to the extent that a carrier’s residential rates (including certain state regulated fees) do not meet the urban rate floor. On June 10, 2014, the FCC altered the timeline for carriers to meet the national urban rate floor and provided a more gradual transition to the urban rate floor by

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<sup>1</sup> See *Connect America Fund; A National Broadband Plan for Our Future; Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates for Local Exchange Carriers; High-Cost Universal Service Support; Developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime; Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; Lifeline and Link-Up; Universal Service Reform – Mobility Fund*; WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 07-135, 05-337, 03-109, CC Docket Nos. 01-92, 96-45, GN Docket No. 09-51, WT Docket No. 10-208, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 26 FCC Rcd 17663 (2011) (*USF/ICC Transformation Order*); *aff’d sub nom.*, *In re: FCC 11-161*, 753 F.3d 1015 (10th Cir. 2014).

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limiting universal service support reductions beginning July 1, 2016 to only those carriers who, on June 1, 2016, have residential rates below \$18.<sup>2</sup>

BEK is increasing the EAS calling scope to include all of BEK's exchanges and one way local calling to Bismarck, ND. Customers will benefit from the elimination of toll calls between two BEK customers.

Lastly, BEK is equalizing the local rate and the EAS rate across all exchanges. Since all customers will have the same calling scope there is no reason why some customers should pay more than others. This simplifies the pricing to all customers.

Any questions regarding the filing may be directed to the undersigned at the address and telephone number listed above, or by email at [vwimer@jsitel.com](mailto:vwimer@jsitel.com).

Sincerely,



Valerie Wimer  
Vice President

on behalf of  
BEK Communications Cooperative

Enclosures

cc: Patrick Fahn, North Dakota Public Service Commission (via email)  
BEK Communications Cooperative

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<sup>2</sup> See *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket Nos. 10-90 *et al.*, Report and Order, Declaratory Ruling, Order, Memorandum Opinion and Order, Seventh Order on Reconsideration, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 14-54 (rel. June 10, 2014) at Paras. 7 and 80.

**RATES AND CHARGES**

**13.3 LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**

The following rates and charges are made for Local Exchange Service of the Company as identified in Section 6 of this Tariff. Each of the services can be unbundled but only to the extent provided herein.

A. Detariffed Charges

The Company provides, at the option of the customer, telephone maintenance and inside wire maintenance on a detariffed separate basis. Charges for these item will be provided to the customer upon request.

B. Local Exchange Service - monthly rates

BEK Communications Cooperative

1. EAS Charge

<u>EXCHANGE</u>	<u>RATE</u>	
Hazleton (782)	\$ 4.50	(I)
Kintyre (332)	\$ 4.50	(I)
Lehr (378)	\$ 4.50	(I)
Linton (254)	\$ 4.50	(I)
McKenzie (673)	\$ 4.50	(R)
Napoleon (754)	\$ 4.50	(I)
Pettibone (273)	\$ 4.50	(I)
Regan (286)	\$ 4.50	(I)
Robinson (392)	\$ 4.50	(I)
Steele (475)	\$ 4.50	(I)
Sterling (387)	\$ 4.50	(R)
Strasburg (336)	\$ 4.50	(I)
Tappen (327)	\$ 4.50	(I)
Tuttle (867)	\$ 4.50	(I)
Wilton (734)	\$ 4.50	(R)
Wing (943)	\$ 4.50	(I)
Wishek (452)	\$ 4.50	(I)
Zeeland (423)	\$ 4.50	(I)

**RATES AND CHARGES**

B. Local Exchange Service - monthly rates (Cont'd)

BEK Communications Cooperative

2. Residence

<u>EXCHANGE</u>	<u>RATE</u>	(I)
Hazleton (782)	\$18.95	
Kintyre (332)	\$18.95	
Lehr (378)	\$18.95	
Linton (254)	\$18.95	
McKenzie (673)	\$18.95	
Napoleon (754)	\$18.95	
Pettibone (273)	\$18.95	
Regan (286)	\$18.95	
Robinson (392)	\$18.95	
Steele (475)	\$18.95	
Sterling (387)	\$18.95	
Strasburg (336)	\$18.95	
Tappen (327)	\$18.95	
Tuttle (867)	\$18.95	
Wilton (734)	\$18.95	
Wing (943)	\$18.95	
Wishek (452)	\$18.95	
Zeeland (423)	\$18.95	

**RATES AND CHARGES**

**13.3 LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE (Cont'd)**

B. Local Exchange Service - monthly rates (Cont'd)

BEK Communications Cooperative

3. Business

<u>EXCHANGE</u>	<u>RATE</u>	
Hazleton (782)	\$27.95	(I)
Kintyre (332)	\$27.95	
Lehr (378)	\$27.95	
Linton (254)	\$27.95	
McKenzie (673)	\$27.95	
Napoleon (754)	\$27.95	
Pettibone (273)	\$27.95	
Regan (286)	\$27.95	
Robinson (392)	\$27.95	
Steele (475)	\$27.95	
Sterling (387)	\$27.95	
Strasburg (336)	\$27.95	
Tappen (327)	\$27.95	
Tuttle (867)	\$27.95	
Wilton (734)	\$27.95	
Wing (943)	\$27.95	
Wishek (452)	\$27.95	
Zeeland (423)	\$27.95	(I)
4. On Premise Extensions	\$2.00	