

PUCO RESPONSE MEMORANDUM

To: Ethan Wittkorn
Regulatory Policy Advocate
Ohio Lieutenant Governor's Office

From: Angela Hawkins
Legal Director
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

Date: September 5, 2019

Re: PUCO Response – Telephone Company Procedures and Standards

In Case No. 19-173-TP-ORD, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) is amending seven rules to comply with the passage of Sub. H.B. 402 of the 132nd General Assembly. These rules permit incumbent local exchange carriers to increase rates for basic local exchange service (BLES) by an amount of up to \$2.00 annually (an increase from \$1.25 annually). The rules also require reporting on line loss and lines in service, price changes for services, submission of reports to the Ohio General Assembly, definitions, suspensions, customer notice requirements, BLES pricing parameters, lifeline requirements, procedures for notifying the commission of operation changes, company records, and complaint procedures. Prior to issuing the proposed rules for written comment, the PUCO held a workshop on February 7, 2019, to enable interested stakeholders to offer proposals for the PUCO's consideration. Several stakeholders attended the workshops and all comments offered at the workshops were considered prior to issuing the rules for formal written comment.

Following the formal comment periods, the PUCO issued a Finding and Order on May 29, 2019 and an Entry on Rehearing on July 31, 2019, adopting the amended rules. On September 4, 2019, CSI replied to the PUCO, stating that CSI had no recommendations, and concluding that the PUCO should proceed with formal filing of the rules package with the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR). In light of CSI's conclusion, the PUCO will proceed and file these rules with JCARR.

cc: Carrie Kuruc – Director of the Common Sense Initiative Office
Jeff Jones, Chief, Telecommunications Section, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

