

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WYOMING

IN THE MATTER OF THE TARIFF FILING OF)
UNITED TELEPHONE COMPANY OF THE) DOCKET NO. 70009-TT-01-122
WEST D/B/A SPRINT TO INCREASE THE) (RECORD NO. 6672)
LATE PAYMENT FEE TO 3% ON ANY UNPAID)
BALANCE FOR ALL SERVICES)

ORDER DENYING APPLICATION
(Issued September 27, 2001)

This matter is before the Commission upon the tariff filing of United Telephone Company of the West d/b/a Sprint, hereinafter referred to as Sprint or the Company, for authority to increase the late payment fee to 3% on any unpaid balance for all services.

1. Sprint is a telecommunications company as defined by W.S. § 37-15-103(a)(xi) and, as such, subject to the Commission's jurisdiction pursuant to the provisions of W.S. § 37-15-401.
2. In the above docketed application, Sprint sought to increase its late payment fee to 3% on any unpaid balance for all services. Currently, Sprint's tariff's reflect a late payment fee of 1.5% or \$0.50, whichever is higher, on any unpaid balance for all services, but not to be charged to any balance to which the charge was applied in a previous billing. This filing is proposed to be effective June 21, 2001.
3. In its application, Sprint states that the reason for the proposed change is that Sprint is trying to recover costs associated with the delinquent accounts.
4. Sprint submitted its application with tariffs which provided no support for the increase. Sprint provided no information in support of its claim that the costs associated with late payments were not being fully recovered.
5. After several conversations in which the Commission Staff requested additional data to show that the increase was needed, Sprint provided the Commission with a cost study that showed a total cost of late payment at 2.84%. This was comprised of expense percentages for items associated with late payments.
6. The Commission Staff requested from Sprint a spreadsheet to show the amount of late payments or uncollectable amounts from Wyoming customers over the last three years. Sprint submitted a spreadsheet that showed unpaid balances for the previous 19 months only. It was noted that there were increases in these amounts beginning in June 2000, but they decreased again in April 2001
7. Commission Staff notes that, in Wyoming, other companies charge only 1.2%-1.5% for late payment fees.
8. After having reviewed all the information available, Staff could not support a solid recommendation as to the approval or denial of this application due to a lack of information and assistance by Sprint.
9. The Commission finds and concludes that Sprint has failed to demonstrate that an increase in the late payment fee to 3% on any unpaid balance for all services is warranted, under the circumstances.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. Pursuant to open meeting action taken on September 4, 2001, the application filed by United Telephone Company of the West, d/b/a Sprint, with regard to the above docketed matter, should be, and

hereby is, denied.

2. This Order is effective immediately.

MADE and ENTERED at Cheyenne, Wyoming, this 27th day of September, 2001.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WYOMING

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STEVE ELLENBECKER, Chairman

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STEVE FURTNEY, Deputy Chair

KRISITN H. LEE, Commissioner

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

IVAN H. WILLIAMS, Assistant Secretary