

2. On February 4, 2025, Wheat State Telephone Company, Inc. (“Wheat State”) filed an application (“Application”) in the above-captioned docket requesting permission to revise its General Local Exchange Carrier tariff to raise its Residential and Business Bundles by \$0.25 per month with an effective date of March 1, 2025.⁵

3. On February 11, 2025, Commission Staff (“Staff”) submitted its Report and Recommendation (“R&R”) in the above-captioned docket, attached hereto and incorporated herein.⁶ Staff’s R&R recommended that the Commission approve Wheat State’s Application and its requested tariff revisions.⁷

II. LEGAL STANDARDS

4. The Commission derives its authority to review Local Exchange Carrier tariffs from K.S.A. 66-117(d), which states in part:

...(d) Except as provided in subsection (c), no change shall be made in any rate, toll, charge, classification, or schedule of charges or joint rates, or in any rule or regulation or practice pertaining to the service or rates of any such public utility or common carrier, without the consent of the [C]ommission.

K.S.A. 66-1,190 provides in part that telecommunications public utilities doing business in Kansas shall:

... publish and file with the [C]ommission copies of all schedules of rates, joint rates, tolls charges, classifications, and divisions of rates affecting Kansas traffic, either state or interstate... and... the [C]ommission shall have power to prescribe reasonable rules and regulations regarding the form and filing of all schedules, tariffs, and classifications of all rates, joint rates, and charges and all rules and regulations of such telecommunications public utilities...

5. The Commission must review rates and terms for jurisdictional telecommunications services to ensure they are “just and reasonable” pursuant to K.S.A. 66-1,189.

⁵ Wheat State Telephone Company, Inc., Application (Feb. 4, 2025) (“Application”).

⁶ Report and Recommendation, Utilities Division, Docket No. 25-WHST-308-TAR (Feb. 11, 2025) (“Staff’s R&R” or “R&R”).

⁷ *Id.*, p. 2.

Further, K.S.A. 66-1,189 requires the Commission to ensure that all classifications, rules, and regulations regarding the services are not unduly discriminatory or preferential.

6. Staff reviewed Wheat State's Application and corresponding tariff revisions.⁸ Wheat State represented that it had distributed a Customer Notice pursuant to the Commission's Order in the 25-141 Docket.⁹ Staff confirmed that Wheat State submitted its yearly revenue change from the rate increases in the 25-141 Docket.¹⁰ Staff determined that Wheat State properly distributed a customer notice and that the increases to costs for services is in compliance with the coordinated increases set forth in the 25-141 Docket.¹¹

7. Staff recommended that the Commission find that Wheat State's proposed tariff revisions are just and reasonable and therefore approve Wheat State's Application as filed.¹²

8. The Commission hereby adopts the analysis and recommendations contained in Staff's February 11, 2025, R&R as findings. The Commission finds that Wheat State's Application and tariff revisions should be approved. The Commission concludes that the proposed tariff revisions are reasonable.

IT IS, THEREFORE, BY THE COMMISSION ORDERED THAT:

A. Wheat State Telephone Company, Inc.'s Application is hereby granted, and its revised General Exchange Tariff is hereby approved and shall become effective March 1, 2025.

B. Any party may file and serve a petition for reconsideration pursuant to the requirements and time limits established by K.S.A. 77-529(a)(1).¹³

⁸ See Staff's R&R, p. 2.

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ Wheat State tariff filing, Docket No. 25-GIMT-141-GIT (Jan. 14, 2025).

¹¹ See Staff's R&R, p. 2.

¹² *Id.*, p. 3.

¹³ K.S.A. 66-118b; K.S.A. 77-503(c); K.S.A. 77-531(b).

BY THE COMMISSION IT IS SO ORDERED.

French, Chair; Keen, Commissioner; Kuether, Commissioner

Dated: 02/27/2025

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Abigail D. Emery".

Abigail D. Emery
Acting Secretary to the Commission

BWB

Andrew J. French, Chairperson
Dwight D. Keen, Commissioner
Annie Kuether, Commissioner

Laura Kelly, Governor

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION
UTILITIES DIVISION

TO: Andrew J. French, Chairperson
Dwight D. Keen, Commissioner
Annie Kuether, Commissioner

FROM: Drennan Dolsky, Telecommunications Analyst
Steve Garrett, Deputy Chief of Telecommunications
Jeff McClanahan, Director of Utilities

DATE: February 11, 2025

SUBJECT: Docket No. 25-WHST-308-TAR
In the Matter of the Application of Wheat State Telephone Company Inc.
Filing Tariff Revisions in Sections 4 and 5 Revised Sheet 12.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On February 4, 2025, Wheat State Telephone Company, Inc. (“Wheat State”) filed an Application with the Kansas Corporation Commission (“Commission”) requesting permission to increase its Business and Residential Bundle Services Rates by \$0.25 per month.¹ Section 4, 4th Revised Sheet 12 is the page impacted by these rate increases.

Wheat State’s Application was filed pursuant to the Commission’s January 16, 2025, Order issued in Docket No. 25-GIMT-141-GIT (“the 25-141 Docket”).² The Order in the 25-141 Docket approved that the affordable residential service rate and affordable single-line business service rate for the Rural Local Exchange Carriers (“RLECs”) shall be \$19.00 and \$22.00, respectively.³ These approved affordable rates represented an increase of \$0.25 over the previous affordable rates of \$18.75 and \$21.75, respectively.⁴

The Order in the 25-141 Docket directed RLECs who wish to adjust their rates to the affordable rates to file revised local service tariffs to include their new monthly service rates with an effective date of March 1, 2025, in the 25-141 Docket, no later than February 1, 2025.⁵

¹ Tariff for Wheat State Telephone Company, Inc. (Feb. 4, 2025) (“Application”).

² Order Adopting KUSF Year 29 Assessment Rate and Affordable Rates, Docket No. 25-GIMT-141-GIT (Jan. 16, 2025) (“the 25-141 Docket”).

³ *Id.* at p. 4.

⁴ *Id.* at p. 3. and *See* Direct Testimony of Steve Garrett on Behalf of Kansas Corporation Commission Staff, Docket No. 25-GIMT-141-GIT (Dec. 13, 2024).

⁵ *Id.* at p. 4.

Wheat State responded to Staff's email inquiry on February 10, 2025, and indicated that it sent a notice to customers of these upcoming local rate changes with their filing in the 25-141 Docket. The Company's yearly revenue change from the rate increases is also reflected in the 25-141 Docket.⁶

Staff recommends approval of this Application. The Commission action date is Thursday, March 6, 2025.

BACKGROUND:

The Commission derives its authority to review Local Exchange Carrier tariffs from K.S.A. 66-117(d), which states in part:

(d) Except as provided in subsection (c), no change shall be made in any rate, toll, charge, classification or schedule of charges or joint rates, or in any rule or regulation or practice pertaining to the service or rates of any such public utility or common carrier, without the consent of the commission.

Pursuant to K.S.A. 66-1,189, the Commission must review rates and terms for every telecommunication public utility to ensure they are "just and reasonable" and that the classifications, rules, and regulations regarding the services are not unduly discriminatory or preferential.

Additionally, K.S.A. 66-1,190 requires every public utility doing business in Kansas over which the Commission has control to publish and file with the Commission copies of all schedules of rates, joint rates, tolls, charges, classifications and divisions of rates affecting Kansas traffic, either state or interstate. The Commission has the power to prescribe reasonable rules and regulations regarding the form and filing of all schedules, tariffs and classifications of all rates, joint rates, tolls and charges, and all rules and regulations of such telecommunications public utilities as the Commission determines reasonable and appropriate.

Commission Staff reserves the right to request an audit consistent with Docket No. 04-GIMT-1080-GIT.

ANALYSIS:

Wheat State requests approval to increase the following rates:

- Business Bundles.
 - Pro 60 from \$59.69 to \$59.94.
 - Pro 100 from \$61.64 to \$61.89.
 - Pro 300 from \$69.64 to \$69.89.
 - Pro 900 from \$79.64 to \$79.89.
 - MultiPro 60 from \$69.69 to \$69.94.

⁶ Wheat State Tariff Filing, Docket No. 25-GIMT-141-GIT (Jan. 14, 2025).

- MultiPro 100 from \$71.64 to \$71.89.
- MultiPro 300 from \$79.64 to \$79.89.
- MultiPro 900 from \$89.64 to \$89.89.
- PowerPro 60 from \$89.69 to \$89.94.
- PowerPro 100 from \$91.64 to \$91.89.
- PowerPro 300 from \$99.64 to \$99.89.
- PowerPro 900 from \$109.64 to \$109.89.
- MegaPro 60 from \$99.69 to \$99.94.
- MegaPro 100 from \$101.64 to \$101.89.
- MegaPro 300 from \$109.64 to \$109.89.
- MegaPro 900 from \$119.64 to \$119.89.
- Residential Bundles.
 - Pro 60 from \$56.69 to \$56.94.
 - Pro 100 from \$58.64 to \$58.89.
 - Pro 300 from \$66.64 to \$66.89.
 - Pro 900 from \$76.64 to \$76.89.
 - Pro Unlimited from \$92.64 to \$92.89.
 - MultiPro 60 from \$66.69 to \$66.94.
 - MultiPro 100 from \$68.64 to \$68.89.
 - MultiPro 300 from \$76.64 to \$76.89.
 - MultiPro 900 from \$86.64 to \$86.89.
 - MultiPro Unlimited from \$102.64 to \$102.89.
 - PowerPro 60 from \$86.69 to \$86.94.
 - PowerPro 100 from \$88.64 to \$88.89.
 - PowerPro 300 from \$96.64 to \$96.89.
 - PowerPro 900 from \$106.64 to \$106.89.
 - PowerPro Unlimited from \$122.64 to \$122.89.
 - MegaPro 60 from \$96.69 to \$96.94.
 - MegaPro 100 from \$101.64 to \$101.89.
 - MegaPro 300 from \$98.64 to \$98.89.
 - MegaPro 900 from \$116.64 to \$116.89.
 - MegaPro Unlimited from \$132.64 to \$132.89.

Staff finds Wheat State to have properly sent out a Customer Notice. Staff finds that Wheat State's request to raise its Business & Residential Bundles by \$0.25 per month is in compliance with the coordinated increases determined in the 25-141 Docket. Due to this finding, Staff believes these proposed rate increases are reasonable.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Commission approve Wheat State's revised tariff to increase the Business & Residential Bundles with a tariff effective date effective date of March 5, 2025, as requested by the company.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

25-WHST-308-TAR

I, the undersigned, certify that a true copy of the attached Order has been served to the following by means of electronic service on 02/27/2025.

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/S/ KCC Docket Room

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