

**THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS**

Before Commissioners: Andrew J. French, Chairperson
Dwight D. Keen
Annie Kuether

In the Matter of the Application of KanOkla)
Telephone Association for Approval of Tariff) Docket No. 25-KOKT-227-TAR
Changes.)

ORDER APPROVING REVISED TARIFF

The above-captioned matter comes before the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas (“Commission”) for consideration and determination. Having examined its files and records, the Commission finds and concludes:

I. Background

1. On August 22, 2024, the Commission approved the Order Adopting Joint Staff and RLEC’s Proposed Replacement for the 1967 Directive Regarding Directories in Docket No. 24-GIMT-380-MIS (“the 24-380 Docket”).¹ The Order in the 24-380 Docket eliminated any requirement for Rural Local Exchange Carriers (“RLECs”) to physically print and distribute a telephone directory to subscribers.² Instead, the Order in the 24-380 Docket allows RLECs to provide directories in any format or manner an individual RLEC deems most cost-effective, upon request from a subscriber, subject to the conditions outlined in paragraph 6 of the 24-380 Order.³

2. Paragraph 6 of the 24-380 Order creates the following conditions on an RLEC that elects to discontinue to distribute a formal bound and printed directory:

¹ Order Adopting Joint Staff and RLECs Proposed Replacement For 1967 Directive Regarding Directories (Aug. 22, 2024) (“24-380 Order”).

² 24-380 Order, p. 4.

³ *Id.*

- Each RLEC will provide at least 90 days’ notice before ceasing the distribution of a printed directory to every subscriber, through bill messages, bill inserts, website announcements and social media messaging, including information on (1) accessing any online or electronic directory, and (2) requesting a paper copy of the directory from the RLEC;
- The notice will also include information on how customers can communicate with the respective RLEC, or the Commission;
- The RLEC will inform new customers that they will not be receiving a printed directory, and will provide new customers with information on how to access an online directory or obtain a printed directory upon request; and
- RLECs that elect to stop distributing directories will send annual reminders to their customers that a printed directory will no longer be provided, but that the customer may request a simple paper/PDF copy of directory information.⁴

3. On December 2, 2024, KanOkla Telephone Association, Inc. (“KanOkla” or “Company”) filed an application requesting to make tariff revisions to its General Exchange Tariff and Local Exchange Tariff.⁵ The revisions would remove the requirement for printing and distributing a directory pursuant to the provisions of the Commission’s Order in the 24-380 Docket.

4. On December 3, 2024, an amended application was filed correcting minor layout errors at the request of Staff.⁶

II. Legal Discussion and Analysis

5. The Commission derives its authority to review 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.

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

⁴ *Id.*, p. 3.

⁵ Application of KanOkla Telephone Association, Inc. (Dec. 2, 2024).

⁶ Amended Application of KanOkla Telephone Association, Inc. (Dec. 3, 2024).

... 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... and... the commission 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, tolls, and charges and all rules and regulations of such telecommunications public utilities...

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. 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. On December 5, 2024, Commission Staff (“Staff”) submitted its Report and Recommendation (“R&R”), attached hereto and incorporated herein.⁷

7. Staff determined that KanOkla’s revisions to its tariffs are intended to implement language that the Company will make available upon request and without charge a copy of the directory to any subscriber, either in person at Company offices or on the Company’s website.⁸

8. Staff recommended that KanOkla comply with the directives of the Commission’s August 22, 2024, Order in 24-380 and that the Commission find that KanOkla’s revisions to its tariff are just and reasonable and consistent with the Commission’s Order in the 24-380 Docket.⁹

9. Staff recommended that the Commission grant KanOkla’s amended Application and approve KanOkla’s revised tariff as requested by the company.¹⁰

10. The Commission hereby adopts Staff’s analysis and recommendations as contained in Staff’s December 5, 2024, Report and Recommendation. The Commission finds and concludes

⁷ Staff’s Report and Recommendation (Dec. 5, 2024) (“R&R”).

⁸ *Id.* at p. 2.

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Id.*

that KanOkla's amended Application should be granted, and that KanOkla's tariff revisions are approved as requested.


IT IS, THEREFORE, BY THE COMMISSION ORDERED THAT:

- A. KanOkla Telephone Association, Inc.'s amended Application is hereby granted, and its revised General Exchange Tariff and Local Exchange Tariff are 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).¹¹

BY THE COMMISSION IT IS SO ORDERED.

French, Chairperson; Keen, Commissioner; Kuether, Commissioner

Dated: 12/17/2024



Lynn M. Retz
Executive Director

BWB

¹¹ K.S.A. 66-118b; K.S.A. 77-503(c); K.S.A. 77-531(b).

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION
UTILITIES DIVISION**

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

FROM: Jorge Soto-Gomez, Telecommunications Analyst
Steve Garrett, Deputy Chief of Telecommunications
Jeff McClanahan, Director of Utilities

DATE: December 5, 2024

SUBJECT: Docket No. 25-KOKT-227-TAR

In the Matter of the Application of KanOkla Telephone Association for Approval of Tariff Changes.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On December 2, 2024, KanOkla Telephone Association, Inc. (KanOkla Telephone) filed an Application with the Kansas Corporation Commission (Commission) for revision to its General Exchange Tariff and Local Exchange Tariff. This revision will implement the Commission's August 22, 2024, Order Adopting Joint Staff and RLECs Proposed Replacement for the 1967 Directive Regarding Directories in Docket No. 24-GIMT-380-MIS (24-380 Order). The tariff pages impacted by this revision include the following:

- General Exchange Tariff, Part 1, Original Sheets 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12
- Local Exchange Tariff, Part 2, 2nd Revised Sheet 2 and 1st Revised Sheet 16

On December 3, 2024, an amended Application was filed correcting minor layout errors at the request of Commission staff (Staff). Staff recommends approval of this Application. The Commission action date is Wednesday, January 1, 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 telecommunications public utility to ensure they are “just and reasonable” and 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.

The 24-380 Order allows a Rural Local Exchange Carrier (RLEC) discretion to continue to distribute a formal bound and printed directory to subscribers. Paragraph 6 of the 24-380 Order, herein known as the “Paragraph 6 Conditions”, creates the following conditions on a RLEC that elects to discontinue to distribute a formal bound and printed directory:

- Each RLEC will provide at least 90 days' notice before ceasing the distribution of a printed directory to every subscriber, through bill messages, bill inserts, website announcements and social media messaging, including information on (1) accessing any online or electronic directory, and (2) requesting a paper copy of the directory from the RLEC;
- The notice will also include information on how customers can communicate with the respective RLEC, or the Commission;
- The RLEC will inform new customers that they will not be receiving a printed directory, and will provide new customers with information on how to access an online directory or obtain a printed directory upon request; and
- RLECs that elect to stop distributing directories will send annual reminders to their customers that a printed directory will no longer be provided, but that the customer may request a simple paper/PDF copy of directory information.

ANALYSIS:

KanOkla Telephone’s revision to its General Exchange Tariff and Local Exchange Tariff implement language that the Company will make available upon request and without charge, a copy of the directory to any subscriber. Such list may be obtained in person at Company offices or on the Company’s website.

Staff’s review has indicated the revisions to KanOkla Telephone’s General Exchange Tariff and Local Exchange Tariff are just and reasonable and consistent with the Commission’s 24-380 Order.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends KanOkla Telephone comply with the directives of the Paragraph 6 Conditions. Staff further recommends the Commission approve KanOkla Telephone’s revisions to their General Exchange Tariff and Local Exchange Tariff to implement the language changes from the Commission’s 24-380 Order with an effective date of March 1, 2025.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

25-KOKT-227-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 12/17/2024.

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/S/ KCC Docket Room

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