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March 20, 2015

Neysa Thomas Acting Executive Director Kansas Corporation Commission 1500 SW Arrowhead Road Topeka, KS 66604

Dear Ms. Thomas,

Attached for filing with the Commission are proposed changes to the Columbus Communications Services, LLC General Exchange Tariff. This is a revised filing, having benefitted from discussions with the Telecommunications Staff. The previous filing, 20150313\_es00a9, should be deleted.

The enclosed filing is being made to facilitate the scheduled removal of obsolete Section 4 Bundle Services in their entirety and replacement with new Bundle Services. The new bundled offerings reflect this year's Revised Residence Access Line Rate of \$17.00, significant increases in broadband Internet speeds, necessary changes in video service tiers resulting from increased content costs, and a realignment in toll usage levels.

The cooperative wishes to remove the existing bundles, which have become unprofitable to offer as a result of increased wholesale video content costs. The cooperative intends to offer its members a migration path to the new bundles, through June 15, 2015. The plan to transition triple play customers would feature these steps:

- Notification mailed to all impacted subscribers on April 15, 2015 will state that due to increases in cable
  TV programming costs, the recent local rate increase, and demand for faster broadband speeds, the
  cooperative has modified its triple play offerings. A draft copy of the customer notification letter is
  attached to this filing.
- Because the changes to existing triple play packages are relatively minor (and in some cases more advantageous for subscribers), the cooperative will provide a recommendation for a similarly-featured new triple play package. The customer will have the option to choose any of the new packages between April 15 and June 15—via mail, visit or call-in to the business office. If a subscriber does not choose a package, it will be clearly stated that they will be provisionally auto-enrolled in the suggested replacement in time for their July 1, 2015 billing. The change in monthly price will be clearly spelled out to the customer. If the provisionally chosen package is not to the subscriber's liking, a change will be made, and the subscriber will not be billed any additional charges associated with the cooperative's provisional package choice. Additional package changes will be possible through December 31, 2015, with no service charge, to be sure the subscriber has landed in the preferred triple play bundle. The waiver of any service charges will be borne by the non-regulated broadband/cable services, and not the regulated side of the applicant.
- A copy of the cooperative's notice will be made available to the state's Consumer Protection Office, to insure proper oversight of this transition.
- The cooperative will run auxiliary notifications in the May, and June, 2015 billings to further notify existing triple play customers of the changes.

Currently available bundles generate \$37,227 in monthly revenue that would annualize to \$446,725. These same customers in proposed bundles, would generate an annualized \$460,526, including the \$.25 per month increase in residential local service (from \$16.75 to \$17.00) arising from the recent KUSF Order. Since the bundles require subscribers to have a local access line, and access lines are in decline, there is no currently available forecast of bundle demand that shows an increase in subscriptions.

The cooperative requests an effective date of April15, 2015 for this filing.

If you have any questions concerning this filing, please contact me on (608) 664-9110.

Sincerely,

RIESLING ASSOCIATES LLP

Robert R. Abrams

Senior Telecommunications Consultant

**Enclosures** 

cc: Trish Carroll, Columbus Telephone Company

# THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION OF KANSAS

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#### 4. BUNDLE SERVICES

To the extend a bundle of services offered by the Company pursuant to this or another tariff includes one or more specific nonregulated services, the offering of such service through the tariff does not constitute the Company's consent that the specific unregulated service should thereby become regulated.

## **Triple Play Packages**

Bronze PackageBundle Price\*\*100 - Local Access\$109.99

Caller ID Name/Number

Voice Mail

Call Waiting

Anytime/Anywhere Long Distance w/60 minutes free

10 Meg Ethernet

Preferred CATV Pkg - 110 Channels

Free Cable TV Installation

Protection Plan (3 Services)

Silver Package

100 – Local Access \$139.99

Caller ID Name/Number

Voice Mail

Call Waiting

Anytime/Anywhere Long Distance w/60 minutes free

10 Meg Ethernet

Ultimate CATV Pkg - 286 Channels

Whole Home DVR

Free Cable TV Installation

Protection Plan (3 Services)

Gold Package

100 – Local Access \$169.99

Caller ID Name/Number

Voice Mail

Call Waiting

Anytime/Anywhere Long Distance w/120 minutes free

30 Meg Ethernet

Ultimate CATV Pkg - 286 Channels

Whole Home DVR

Digital Cable Service to (4) Televisions (2 Provided in Pkg)

Free Cable TV Installation

Protection Plan (3 Services)

\*\*Bundle Pricing will be available to customers as of January 1, 2014, through June 14, 2015

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**Bundle Price\*\*** 

\$199.99

# 4. BUNDLE SERVICES (Cont.)

#### Triple Play Packages (Cont'd.)

Gold Package

100 – Local Access
Caller ID Name/Number
Voice Mail
Call Waiting
Anytime/Anywhere Long Distance w/120 minutes free
50 Meg Ethernet
Ultimate CATV Pkg – 286 Channels
All Premium Channels
Whole Home DVR
Digital Cable Service to (4) Televisions (2 Provided in Pkg)

Free Cable TV Installation

Protection Plan (3 Services)

Additional charges - 911, FUSC, KUSF billed separately. (+taxes)

\*\*Bundle Pricing will be available to customers as of January 1,2014, through June 14, 2015

**(C)** 

Customers as of April 15, 2015 on existing bundle plans are grandfathered in at the existing bundle offerings and pricing. Subscribers to these grandfathered bundle plans will have until June 14, 2015 to selection a from new bundle plans appearing on Sheets 4 and 5 of this Section. Disconnection or interruption of service due to failure to pay or late payment will result in termination of the grandfathered bundle service.

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(N)

#### 4. BUNDLE SERVICES (Cont'd.)

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#### Triple Play Packages (Cont'd.)

#### **Bundle Price\*\*\***

\$114.99

# Starter Bundle Plan (TRI1B)

Residential Local Access
\*Call Features
Ultimate CATV
10 Meg Ethernet
1st 60 Minutes of Toll Calling Free, per month
Additional Toll minutes priced at .07/min
Protection Plan

## Accelerate Bundle Plan (TRI2B)

Residential Local Access
\*Call Features
Ultimate CATV
20 Meg Ethernet
1st 60 Minutes of Toll Calling Free, per month
Additional Toll minutes priced at .07/min
Protection Plan
Additional Cable Box
Whole Home DVR

\$139.99

Bundle CLD toll pricing @ \$3.95(will be billed outside the bundle) includes 60 minutes free. \$3.95 charge will appear under toll charges on billing. Additional minutes billed at .07/minute.

Additional charges – 911, Subscriber Line Charge, FUSC, KUSF billed separately. (+taxes)

\*Call Features include Caller Identification Name/Number, Voice Mail, & Call Waiting

\*\*\*Bundle Pricing will be available to customers as of April 15, 2015

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GENERAL EXCHANGE TARIFF Section 4 Original Sheet 5

## 4. BUNDLE SERVICES (Cont'd.)

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To the extend a bundle of services offered by the Company pursuant to this or another tariff includes one or more specific nonregulated services, the offering of such service through the tariff does not constitute the Company's consent that the specific unregulated service should thereby become regulated.

## Triple Play Packages (Cont'd.)

Bundle Price\*\*\*

\$159.99

## Momentum Bundle Plan (TRI3B)

Residential Local Access
\*Call Features
Ultimate CATV
50 Meg Ethernet
1st 120 Minutes of Toll Calling Free, per month
Additional Toll minutes priced at .07/min
Protection Plan
Whole Home DVR

#### **Velocity Bundle Plan** (TRI4B)

2 Additional Cable Boxes

\$199.99

Residential Local Access
\*Call Features
Ultimate CATV
100 Meg Ethernet
1st 120 Minutes of Toll Calling Free, per month
Additional Toll minutes priced at .07/min
Protection Plan
Whole Home DVR
All Premium Channels
2 Additional Cable Boxes

Bundle CLD toll pricing @ \$3.95(will be billed outside the bundle) includes 120 minutes free. charge will appear under toll charges on billing. Additional minutes billed at .07/minute.

\$3.95

 $Additional\ charges -911, Subscriber\ Line\ Charge, FUSC, KUSF\ billed\ separately.\ (+taxes)$ 

\*Call Features include Caller Identification Name/Number, Voice Mail, & Call Waiting

\*\*\*Bundle Pricing will be available to customers as of April 15, 2015

(N)

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(CCS logo, here)

April 15, 2015

Customer Name
Customer Address
Columbus, KS 66725

Dear Customer Name,

As a member-owned cooperative, it is our obligation to look after the best interests of our member customers. The communications landscape changes rapidly. We respond to needs to keep offering viable cable services, and meeting your demands for increasingly faster broadband, as just two examples.

In an effort to meet these changing demands, we have modified our Triple Pack lineup of packages that include telephone, broadband Internet, and cable television services. These changes do impact your account.

You are currently subscribed to our legacy "bundle name" package, which is being discontinued. Its designated replacement is the "new bundle name" for "monthly bundle price." This would change your monthly bill by "billing amount change."

The replacement package will provide you noticeably faster broadband speeds and more cable television channels, including a high definition lineup. Details of the service level changes can be found in the attached sheet.

If this change is satisfactory to you, you do not need to take any further action. Your July 1, 2015 bill from us will be modified with the new package automatically.

You may also review the attached list of new Triple Packs and select a different one by contacting our office. By contacting us, a Customer Service Representative will review your account and assist you in selecting the best pricing option to meet your needs.

Should you wish to change after July 1, 2015, you may do so through December 31, 2015 with no service change fees.

We think you will find our new Triple Packs more value-packed and in tune with the needs of most households today.

Sincerely,

Nick D. Saporito Marketing Manager