

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

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

In the Matter of Blue Valley Tele-)
Communication Filing Tariff Revisions to No)
Longer Provide a Printed Telephone Directory) Docket No. 25-BLVT-270-TAR
and Remove Services Which No Longer)
Provided.)

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 (“Order”) in Docket No. 24-GIMT-380-MIS (“the 24-380 Docket”).¹ The Order in the 24-380 Docket eliminated any requirement that mandated 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-

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.

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:

- 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 January 8, 2025, Blue Valley Tele-Communications, Inc., (“Blue Valley”) filed a request to revise its General Exchange Tariff (“Application”).⁵ The requested tariff revisions reflect the implementation of the Commission’s Order in the 24-380 Docket, update two Custom Local Area Signaling Services (CLASS) feature rates, and remove services that are no longer provided to customers.

II. Legal Discussion and Analysis

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

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*, p. 3.

⁵ Application of Blue Valley Tele-Communications, Inc., (Jan. 8, 2025).

....(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:

... 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.

5. On January 24, 2025, Commission Staff (“Staff”) submitted its Report and Recommendation (“R&R”), attached hereto and incorporated herein.⁶

6. The Commission finds that Blue Valley’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.⁷ Therefore, the Commission finds that Blue Valley’s revisions to its tariffs are consistent with the Commission’s Order in the 24-380 Docket.⁸

⁶ Staff’s Report and Recommendation (Jan. 24, 2025) (“R&R”).

⁷ *Id.* at p. 2.

⁸ *Id.*

7. Staff determined revisions to Blue Valley’s tariffs for Rate No. 5, “Call Number Blocking” feature reduced the monthly rate from \$2.25 to zero, and for Rate No. 13, “Private Directory Number” service reduced the monthly rate from \$4.00 to \$2.25.⁹

8. Staff determined Blue Valley’s requested revisions remove services no longer offered, including “Pay Telephone Service Line” basic rates and related “Payphone Exchange Service” section. Blue Valley represented and Staff confirmed that there is no revenue impact resulting from the changes to Blue Valley’s tariff.¹⁰ Blue Valley represented and Staff further confirmed that there are zero customers subscribed to the removed services.¹¹ Therefore, Staff recommended that the Commission grant Blue Valley’s Application and approve Blue Valley’s revised tariff as requested by the company.¹²

9. The Commission hereby adopts Staff’s analysis and recommendations as contained in Staff’s January 2, 2025, R&R as additional findings. The Commission finds that Blue Valley’s Application for tariff revisions should be approved. Therefore, the Commission concludes that Blue Valley’s revisions to its tariff are just and reasonable.¹³

IT IS, THEREFORE, BY THE COMMISSION ORDERED THAT:

- A. Blue Valley Tele-Communications, Inc.’s, Application to revise its revised General Exchange Tariff is hereby approved and shall become effective upon issuance of this order.
- B. Blue Valley is directed to comply with the customer notification provisions set forth above in paragraph 2 referencing the Commission’s Order in the 24-380 Docket.

⁹ *Id.* at pp. 2–3.

¹⁰ *Id.* at p. 3.

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.*

¹³ *Id.*

C. 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).¹⁴

BY THE COMMISSION IT IS SO ORDERED.

French, Chairperson; Keen, Commissioner; Kuether, Commissioner

Dated: 02/04/2025



Abigail D. Emery
Acting Secretary to the Commission

BWB

¹⁴ 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: January 24, 2025

SUBJECT: Docket No. 25-BLVT-270-TAR
In the Matter of Blue Valley Tele-Communication Filing Tariff Revisions to No Longer Provide a Printed Telephone Directory and Remove Services Which No Longer Provided.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On January 8, 2025, Blue Valley Tele-Communications, Inc. (Blue Valley) filed an Application with the Kansas Corporation Commission (Commission) for revision to its General 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 proposed tariff language will also update two Custom Local Area Signaling Services (CLASS) feature rates and remove services which are no longer provided to customers. For convenience, Commission Staff (Staff) is including Exhibit 1 to this Report and Recommendation listing many tariff sheets revised by this filing.

Staff recommends approval of this Application. On January 16, 2025, the Commission issued a suspension order to allow additional time for Staff review. The Commission action date is Thursday, September 4, 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.

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

ANALYSIS:

Blue Valley will provide a phone directory for the year 2025.¹ When Blue Valley decides to discontinue producing a printed directory, it will follow the Paragraph 6 Conditions. Blue Valley’s revision to its General 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. The Company will provide such list in any format it deems efficient for customer use.²

Blue Valley’s Application reduces two CLASS feature rates charged for services listed in its General Exchange Tariff, Section 2, 6th revised sheet 10:

- Rate No. 5, “Call Number Blocking” feature was reduced from a monthly rate of \$2.25 to \$0.00.

¹ Staff E-mail January 13, 2025.

² Application, pg. 11

- Rate No. 13, “Private Directory Number” service changed name into “Private Telephone Number” service and was reduced from a monthly rate of \$4.00 to \$2.25.

In addition, Blue Valley’s Application eliminates its “Pay Telephone Service Line” basic service rates and related “Payphone Exchange Service” section as it is no longer provided to customers.

Blue Valley states there is no revenue effect (\$0.00) as a result of these changes and no customers are impacted.³ Staff’s review has determined the revisions to Blue Valley’s General Exchange Tariff are just and reasonable and consistent with the Commission’s 24-380 Order.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Commission condition the approval of Blue Valley’s Application upon its continued compliance with the directives of the Paragraph 6 Conditions. Staff further recommends the Commission approve Blue Valley’s revisions to their General Exchange Tariff. Due to the suspended docket, the tariff may have an effective date immediately upon Commission Order or on February 3, 2025, if able to meet the requested date by the Company.

³ Application, pg. 1

Addendum to the Blue Valley Tele-Communications Tariff Filing
January 4, 2025

<u>Tariff</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Revision/Sheet No.</u>
General Exchange	Index	9 th Revised Sheet 1
	Section 1	3 rd Revised Sheet 5
		3 rd Revised Sheet 6
		3 rd Revised Sheet 7
		3 rd Revised Sheet 9
		4 th Revised Sheet 11
		4 th Revised Sheet 14
		4 th Revised Sheet 25
		4 th Revised Sheet 26
	Section 2	5 th Revised Sheet 2
		5 th Revised Sheet 4
		6 th Revised Sheet 5
		4 th Revised Sheet 7
		8 th Revised Sheet 9
		6 th Revised Sheet 10
		1 st Revised Sheet 17
		1 st Revised Sheet 18
	Section 3	30 th Revised Sheet 1
		6 th Revised Sheet 5
		5 th Revised Sheet 6
		5 th Revised Sheet 7
		8 th Revised Sheet 8
		5 th Revised Sheet 10
		5 th Revised Sheet 11
		5 th Revised Sheet 12
		6 th Revised Sheet 13
		5 th Revised Sheet 14
		5 th Revised Sheet 15
		4 th Revised Sheet 16

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

25-BLVT-270-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 02/04/2025.

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