

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

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

In the Matter of S&T Telephone Coop Assn)
Section 3, 2nd Revised Sheet 8 General) Docket No. 25-S&TT-397-TAR
Exchange Tariff.)

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:

1. On May 5, 2025, S&T Telephone Cooperative Association, Inc. (S&T) filed an application requesting the Commission approve a revision to its General Exchange Tariff’s Service Connection Charge rates with a requested effective date of June 4, 2025.

2. 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.

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.

3. On May 8, 2025, Staff submitted its Report and Recommendation (R&R), attached hereto and made a part hereof, recommending the Commission grant S&T’s application and approve the company’s proposed tariff revisions, effective June 4, 2025.

4. Based on Staff’s R&R and the application, the Commission finds the revisions will result in a revenue increase of \$1,300, which will not have a material impact on annual regulated income.¹

5. The Commission adopts Staff’s R&R as well as its findings and therefore concludes that the proposed revised tariff as represented in S&T’s application is just and reasonable.

IT IS, THEREFORE, BY THE COMMISSION ORDERED THAT:

A. S&T Telephone Cooperative Association, Inc.’s application, filed May 5, 2025, is hereby granted and its revised tariff is hereby approved and shall become effective June 4, 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).²

BY THE COMMISSION IT IS SO ORDERED.

French, Chairperson; Keen, Commissioner; Kuether, Commissioner

Dated: 05/15/2025



Celeste Chaney-Tucker
Executive Director

AAL

¹Staff’s R&R at p. 2.

² K.S.A. 66-1118b; 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
Janet Buchanan, Deputy Director of Utilities
Jeff McClanahan, Director of Utilities

DATE: May 8, 2025

SUBJECT: Docket No. 25-S&TT-397-TAR
In the Matter of the S&T Telephone Coop Assn Section 3, 2nd Revised
Sheet 8 General Exchange Tariff.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On May 5, 2025, S&T Telephone Cooperative Association, Inc. (S&T) filed a request with the Kansas Corporation Commission (Commission) for a revision to its General Exchange Tariff's Service Connection Charge rates. Commission Staff (Staff) recommends approval of this Application.

The Commission action date is **Tuesday June 3, 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.

In Docket No. 04-GIMT-1080-GIT (Docket 04-1080), the Commission determined that it would not establish a benchmark or threshold level of revenue increase associated with changes in rates requested by rate-of-return regulated carrier between rate cases or Kansas Universal Service Fund (KUSF) audits. However, the Commission noted that Staff can request an audit if “. . . Staff evaluates information indicating that a rate of return regulated carrier is receiving materially greater revenue than its authorized recovery and rate of return would necessitate.”¹

ANALYSIS:

S&T’s filing regarding its General Exchange Tariff, Section 3, 2nd Revised Sheet 8, are changes to its Business and Residential Service Connection Charges (Non-Recurring) that apply to standard installation. The following changes in charges are for customer-initiated requests for the establishment of telephone service, reconnection for customers temporarily disconnected for non-payment, and establishment of miscellaneous service. S&T requests approval to increase the following rates:

Business & Residential Rates

- Service Order Charge (SOC), each; from \$5.00 to \$7.50.
- Line Connection Charge (LCC), each; from \$5.00 to \$7.50.
- Reconnection Charge for SOC & LCC; from \$10.00 to \$15.00.

S&T states the annual regulated revenue effect of this docket is an increase of approximately \$1,300. Staff’s review determines the customer impact from the increase in rates is minimal.² The annual number of customer requests is relatively low. The current rates were approved in 2017.³ Staff believes the revised rates will not have a material impact on annual regulated revenue. Thus, the resulting revenue increase is consistent with the Commission’s decision in Docket 04-1080. Staff believe the rate changes in this filing are reasonable.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Commission accept the newly revised tariff sheet of Section 3, 2nd Revised Sheet 8 with an effective date of June 4, 2025, as requested by the Company.

¹ *Order Dismissing Docket*, Docket No. 04-GIMT-1080-GIT, September 28, 2004, paragraph 11.

² Staff Email with Mr. Tom Maurer, consultant for S&T, May 7, 2025.

³ *Order Approving Tariff Revisions*, Docket No. 18-S&TT-119-TAR, September 21, 2017

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

25-S&TT-397-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 05/15/2025.

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