

RCA No. 998 Second Revised Sheet No. 1

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STATE OF ALASKA
REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA

ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

AUSAC

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Tariff Advice No. TA27-998

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By: _____
Wanda Tankersley

Title: President

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ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

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ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

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REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA

ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

LOCATION OF TARIFF

The Alaska Universal Service Administrative Company's tariff is available for inspection and review during regular business hours at the following location:

Alaska Universal Service Administrative Company
810 N Street, Suite 204
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: (907) 561-6300

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(T)

The tariff is also available electronically at <http://www.ausac.org>.

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CONCURRING CARRIERS

Concurring Carriers bill the AUSF surcharge to End Users as a separate line item charge, captioned "Alaska Universal Service Fund Surcharge," on their billing statement. The percentage surcharge billed to End Users by Concurring Carriers is the same percentage rate as the AUSF surcharge percentage rate approved by the Commission, and contained in this tariff on Tariff Sheet No. 26. (D)

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EXPLANATION OF SYMBOLS

- C - To denote a changed condition or regulation
- D - To denote a discontinued rate, regulation, or condition
- I - To denote an increase
- L - To denote that material has been relocated from or to another sheet or place in the tariff with no change in text, rate, rule, or condition
- N - To denote a new rate, regulation, condition, or sheet
- R - To denote a reduction
- S - To denote reissued matter
- T - To denote a change in text for clarification

Pursuant to R-97-5(10)/R-97-6(11)/U-98-168(4)
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EXPLANATION OF ABBREVIATIONS

| | | |
|-------|---|-----|
| AAC | Alaska Administrative Code | |
| APUC | Alaska Public Utilities Commission | |
| AUSAC | Alaska Universal Service Administrative Company | |
| AUSF | Alaska Universal Service Fund | |
| CCL | Carrier Common Line | |
| CFR | Code of Federal Regulations | |
| COLR | Carrier of Last Resort | |
| DBS | Direct Broadcast Satellite | |
| DEM | Dial Equipment Minute | |
| EFT | Electronic Funds Transfer | |
| ENS | Essential Network Support | |
| FCC | Federal Communications Commission | (N) |
| IXC | Interexchange Carrier | |
| MTS | Message Telephone Service | |
| OVS | Open Video Systems | |
| PCS | Personal Communication Services | |
| RCA | Regulatory Commission of Alaska | (D) |
| VoIP | Interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol | |
| WATS | Wide Area Telephone Service | |

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STATE OF ALASKA
REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA

ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

DEFINITION OF TERMS

AUSAC: The Alaska Universal Service Administration Company.

AUSF: The Alaska Universal Service Fund.

Carrier Common Line: The access that provides for the use of Telephone Company Common Lines by customers for access to end users to furnish intrastate service. Designated to Essential Network Support, in accordance with 3 AAC 53.346 that is in effect on December 20, 2018.

Carrier of Last Resort: A local exchange carrier so designated by the Commission to provide facilities based retail and carrier to carrier services in accordance with 3 AAC 53.265. A Carrier of Last Resort that is not a participant in the access charge pool is eligible to receive COLR support from the AUSF. Designated to Essential Network Support, in accordance with 3 AAC 53.346 that is in effect on December 20, 2018.

Commission: The Regulatory Commission of Alaska (formerly known as Alaska Public Utilities Commission).

Concurring Carrier: Any intrastate telecommunications carrier who has elected to flow through AUSF surcharge amounts to end users.

(D)

DEM: The minutes of holding time of the originating and terminating switching equipment of a Local Exchange Carrier. Holding time has the same meaning as set forth in 3 AAC 48.430(l)(2).

DEM Weighting: The weighting of the intrastate DEM of a Local Exchange Carrier with less than 50,000 access lines, using the weighting formula set forth at 3 AAC 48.430(e).

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DEFINITION OF TERMS

End User: Any customer of an intrastate telecommunications service who is not a carrier, except that a carrier shall be deemed to be an "end user" to the extent that such carrier uses a telecommunications service for administrative purposes, without making such service available to others, directly or indirectly.

End User Revenue: Amounts billed to End Users for purchase of intrastate telecommunications services.

Essential Network Support: Payments made from the Alaska Universal Service Fund to qualifying carriers for support previously classified as Carrier Common Line and Carrier of Last Resort in accordance with 3 AAC 53.346 that is in effect on December 20, 2018.

(N)

I

(N)

Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier: A Local Exchange Carrier certificated by the Commission and providing local exchange service as of February 8, 1996, or its successor.

Interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP): A service that (1) enables real-time, two-way voice communications; (2) requires a broadband connection from the user's location; (3) requires Internet protocol-compatible customer premises equipment; and (4) permits users generally to receive calls that originate on the PSTN and to terminate calls to the PSTN. VoIP has the same meaning as set out in 47 C.F.R. § 9.3 that is effective on March 1, 2017.

Intrastate Telecommunications Carrier: Any provider of telecommunications service that originates and terminates within Alaska, for a fee directly to the public or to such classes of users as to be effectively available to the public.

(D)

Local Exchange Carrier: An Intrastate Telecommunications Carrier engaged in the business of providing telecommunications service to the public through one or more local telephone exchanges.

Non-Pooling Company: A company that is not a participant in the access charge pool established by the Alaska Intrastate Interexchange Access Charge Manual.

Pooling Company: A company that is a participant in the access charge pool established by the Alaska Intrastate Interexchange Access Charge Manual.

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ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Qualifying Carrier: An Intrastate Telecommunication Carrier designated by the Commission as eligible to receive disbursements from the Alaska Universal Service Fund.

Subject Carrier: An Intrastate Telecommunications Carrier required to make payments to the Alaska Universal Service Fund.

(D)

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STATE OF ALASKA
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ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

A. Applications and Authority

1. General

This tariff contains general rules, rates and charges concerning the administration of the Alaska Universal Service Fund (AUSF) by the Alaska Universal Service Administrative Company (AUSAC). The rules, rates and charges described herein are applicable to all Intrastate Telecommunications Carriers in Alaska offering the services specified on Tariff Sheet No. 15.

2. Authority of AUSAC

The AUSAC shall administer the telecommunications universal service support mechanisms within the State of Alaska as those mechanisms may be defined and designated by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska, including billing contributors, collecting payments, and disbursing funds. The AUSAC shall also be required to perform such other administrative duties relating to the telecommunications universal service support mechanisms as may otherwise be specified by the Commission.

(T)

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ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

B. Purpose of Alaska Universal Service Fund

The AUSF is funded by Intrastate Telecommunications Carriers. It is designed to provide support to Qualifying Carriers for:

1. Dial Equipment Minute (DEM) Weighting in amounts determined annually by the Commission in accordance with its regulations set forth at 3 AAC 48.430;
2. Essential Network Support; and (N) (D)
|
3. Such other purposes as the RCA may designate from time to time by (T) (D) regulation.

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GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

C. Duty, Limitations and Liability

AUSAC is responsible to administer the AUSF with reasonable due diligence, but is not liable for any undercollection, underpayment, loss, or damage arising from any matter beyond its direct control or from any matter in which it exercised reasonable due diligence. Matters beyond the direct control of AUSAC include, without limitation, the failure of any Subject Carrier to make payment into the AUSF, the insufficiency of collections into the AUSF to meet disbursements, acts of God, strikes, riots, fire, quarantine, or matters mandated by law.

Pursuant to R-97-5(10)/R-97-6(11)/U-98-168(4)
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ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND SURCHARGE

A. General

Payments by Intrastate Telecommunication Carriers to the Alaska Universal Service Fund are collected in the form of a surcharge on intrastate End User Revenues of Subject Carriers. Carriers may recover the surcharge from ratepayers through a line item charge on their bills, identified as "Alaska Universal Service Fund Surcharge". The line item charge for concurring carriers shall be a percentage of End User Revenue billings, set at the same percentage rate that AUSAC charges to Subject Carriers. (D)

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ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND SURCHARGE

B. Carriers Subject to Payment of Surcharge

An Intrastate Telecommunications Carrier that provides telecommunications service to the public, or to those classes of users as to be effectively available to the public for a fee, shall pay a universal service surcharge to the AUSF. Telecommunications carriers include carriers offering the following services:

1. Cellular telephone and paging services;
2. Mobile radio services;
3. Operator services;
4. Personal communications services (PCS);
5. Local exchange service;
6. Special access service;
7. Wide Area Telecommunications Service (WATS);
8. Toll-free service;
9. 900 service;
10. Message telephone service (MTS);
11. Private line service;
12. Telex;
13. Telegraph;
14. Video services;
15. Satellite service;
16. Resale of intrastate services;
17. Pay phone services;
18. Network Access Fee accessed on end users in accordance with Section 109 of the Alaska Intrastate Interexchange Access Charge Manual; and (T)
19. Interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) (T)(N)

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ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND SURCHARGE

C. Exemptions from Payment of Surcharge

1. A public utility providing Open Video Systems (OVS), cable leased access, or Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS) services shall not be required to pay the universal service surcharge on the basis of revenues derived from those services.
2. Intrastate Telecommunications Carriers whose estimated payments to the AUSF in a calendar year would be less than \$100 are not required to make payments to the AUSF unless that carrier has received universal service support from the AUSF in that calendar year.

D. Approval by Commission

The annual surcharge calculation submitted by AUSAC is subject to review and approval by the Commission.

Pursuant to R-97-5(10)/R-97-6(11)/U-98-168(4)
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ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND SURCHARGE

E. Calculation and Approval of Annual Surcharge

On or before October 1 of each year, AUSAC shall calculate the estimated surcharge for the following calendar year and submit the requested amount of the surcharge and supporting calculations to the Commission for approval. The annual surcharge is capped at and may not exceed 10%. The annual surcharge calculation shall be made according to the following formula: (N)

$$\frac{(ENS+DEM+O+B+A)}{GR} \quad (N) \quad (D)$$

DEM = Estimated State DEM Weighting Support for Upcoming Calendar Year (D)

ENS = Essential Network Support as set out in 3 AAC 53.346 that is in effect on December 20, 2018 (N)

O = Other Universal Service Fund Distributions Authorized by the Commission by Regulation

B = Estimated AUSAC Budget for Upcoming Calendar Year

A = Adjustment Factor for Overcollections or Undercollections for the Prior Year

GR = Gross Annual End User Operating Revenues Subject to the Surcharge of Subject Telecommunications Carriers for the One-Year Period Beginning July 1st of the Preceding Year and Ending June 30th of the Current Year.

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ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND SURCHARGE

F. Periodic Updates to Surcharge Rate

Quarterly, or more often as necessary, AUSAC may submit to the Commission for approval a revised calculation of the AUSF surcharge necessary to provide AUSF funding support for the current calendar year. The calculation shall be determined using the elements in the formula set forth in Subsection E above. The calculation is subject to Commission review and approval.

Pursuant to R-97-5(10)/R-97-6(11)/U-98-168(4)
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PAYMENTS TO THE ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND

A. Who Must Pay into the AUSF

The AUSF is funded by Intrastate Telecommunications Carriers that provide the telecommunications services within the State of Alaska listed on Tariff Sheet No. 15. Such Intrastate Telecommunications Carriers whose payments would exceed \$100 per year and/or who have received AUSF support during the calendar year shall make monthly payments to the AUSF at the approved surcharge rate. An Intrastate Telecommunications Carrier may recover the amount of its payment to the AUSF from its intrastate retail telecommunications service customers.

B. Notification of Surcharge

AUSAC will notify carriers subject to payment of the surcharge of the amount and effective date of the initial surcharge, and all subsequent adjustments of the surcharge, by mail, by email or facsimile delivery to each subject company's principal place of business in Alaska as identified in the records of the Commission.

C. Calculation of Payments to AUSF

All carriers subject to payment of the surcharge shall make monthly payments to the AUSF, calculated by applying the approved amount of the surcharge to the gross amount of End User Revenues for which bills were rendered in the preceding calendar month. The calculation shall be shown on a form prescribed by the Alaska Universal Service Administrative Company and approved by the Commission, known as the "Carrier Remittance Worksheet" and signed by a responsible agent of the company submitting the payments.

(L)

(L) Text relocated to Sheet 20

(L)

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PAYMENTS TO THE ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND

D. When and Where to File

1. Monthly Carrier Remittance Worksheets and remittances for the previous calendar month must be received by AUSAC on the 20th calendar day of each month. Monthly Carrier Remittance Worksheets shall be delinquent after the 20th calendar day. Payment shall be delinquent after the 20th calendar day.

(T)(L)

(T)

(L)

2. Monthly Carrier Remittance Worksheets shall be emailed to AUSAC on or before the 20th calendar day of each month.

3. Payments due shall be made by wire transfer or Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) directly to AUSAC's AUSF bank account on or before the 20th calendar day of each month. If this due date is a local bank holiday, funds shall be wire transferred or EFT on the prior workday. AUSF Monthly Carrier Remittance Worksheets and payments are due on or before the 20th calendar day of each month.

(D)

4. In cases where technical issues with online banking prevent a carrier from making EFT payments, carriers must contact AUSAC prior to sending any non-EFT remittance payments. Exceptions or waivers may be made on a case-by-case basis.

(N)

E. Interest and Damages

1. Late Submission of Monthly Carrier Remittance Worksheet

(N)

If the Monthly Carrier Remittance Worksheet is not received by the due date, a one-time penalty charge of \$35.00 will be charged.

(N)(L1)

2. If payment is not received in immediately available funds by the due date, interest at the rate of .000287 per day, calculated on the total amount due, will be charged until the date paid. In addition to interest, if payment is not received in immediately available funds within two working (2) days of the due date, a one-time liquidated damages sum equal to the greater of one percent (1%) of the total amount due, or \$35.00 will be charged.

(N)

(L1)

(L) Text relocated from Sheet 19

(L1) Text relocated to Sheet 21

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Title: President

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PAYMENTS TO THE ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND

E. Interest and Damages (Continued)

(L1)

3. Carriers Subject to Penalty and Interest Charges

(N)

Intrastate Telecommunications Carriers with remittance payments that would exceed \$100 per year and/or who have received AUSF support during the calendar year are subject to penalty and interest charges

(L1)

F. Filing Revisions

Revisions may be made to the Carrier Remittance Worksheet to correct revenue amounts or payment amounts previously reported. When filing a revision, actual revised revenue amounts, not differences must be provided. If any additional payment is due, payment should be submitted when the revision is filed with AUSAC.

G. Payment Disputes

In the event that a dispute occurs concerning surcharge payments by, or billing of late payment fees and/or collection charges to, a Subject Carrier, the Subject Carrier is required to pay both the disputed and the undisputed amounts by the due date. If the dispute is resolved in favor of the Subject Carrier, the AUSAC will refund the disputed amount in question plus interest at the rate of .000287 per day within ten (10) calendar days of resolution of the dispute.

H. Compliance Issues

In the event of a failure to comply with the terms or conditions of this tariff, AUSAC may, in its discretion, bring any legal action necessary or appropriate to enforce the terms or conditions of this tariff, including, without limitation, a legal action before the RCA or a court of competent jurisdiction to collect sums owing under this tariff or to enforce compliance with the terms and conditions of this tariff. In the event of a failure to comply with the terms or conditions of this tariff, AUSAC shall be entitled to recover from the defaulting party AUSAC's actual, reasonable attorneys' fees and costs associated with its enforcement efforts and actions.

(L1) Text relocated from Sheet 20

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ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

**ALASKA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMM.**

PAYMENTS TO THE ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND

I. *Disputes and Complaints*

Disputes and complaints by Subject Carriers or Qualifying Carriers, including disputes and complaints regarding disbursement or payments of funds, shall first be made in writing to the AUSAC, who shall make a good faith effort to resolve the dispute or complaint informally. If the complainant is not satisfied with the resolution of the complaint or dispute, the complainant may appeal to the Commission. AUSAC shall attempt to resolve complaints and disputes within forty-five days of receipt of the written complaint.

Complaints or disputes from End Users regarding the amount of surcharge billed or other matters are referred to the billing company, not to AUSAC.

J. *Payment Required Regardless of Collections*

A Subject Carrier is required to make monthly remittance to the AUSAC calculated in accordance with the AUSF surcharge then in effect, regardless of whether or not the Subject Carrier has billed and collected the surcharge from End Users.

Pursuant to R-97-5(10)/R-97-6(11)/U-98-168(4)
Tariff Advice No. 1-998

Effective: March 1, 1999

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RCA No. 998 Second Revised Sheet No. 23

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ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

DISTRIBUTIONS FROM ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND

A. General

AUSAC shall distribute to Qualifying Carriers on a monthly basis, subject to the priority of distribution specified in Subsection D of this section, funds authorized by the Commission for: (T)

1. State Dial Equipment Minute (DEM) Weighting Support;
2. Essential Network Support; and, (N) (D)
3. Such other purposes as may be designated by the Commission (T) |
by regulation. (D)

A carrier's eligibility to receive distributions from the AUSF shall be determined by the Commission.

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ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

DISTRIBUTIONS FROM ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND

B. DEM Weighting Support

1. Distribution from the AUSF for DEM Weighting Support shall be made monthly by AUSAC to each Qualifying Carrier eligible to receive DEM Weighting Support by check or EFT, no later than the 30th day of the month.
2. Beginning January 1, 2019, AUSAC shall distribute to each Qualifying Carrier 67 percent of the DEM weighting support paid to such company for the year ended December 31, 2016. (N) (D)
3. Beginning January 1, 2020, AUSAC shall distribute to each Qualifying Carrier 33 percent of the DEM weighting support paid to such company for the year ended December 31, 2016. (N) (D)
4. Beginning January 1, 2021, AUSAC may not pay DEM weighting support. (N) (D)

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ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

DISTRIBUTIONS FROM ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND

C. Essential Network Support

(N) (D)

1. Distribution from the AUSF for Essential Network Support (ENS) shall be made monthly by AUSAC to each Qualifying Carrier eligible to receive ENS by check or EFT, no later than the 30th day of the month.
2. The AUSAC shall distribute monthly to a Qualifying Company one-twelfth of its annual ENS amount.
3. The ENS for each Qualifying Company shall be determined in accordance with 3 AAC 53.346 that is in effect on December 20, 2018.

(N)

(D)

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REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKARCA No. 998 First Revised Sheet No. 25.1Cancelling Original Sheet No. 25.1**ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY**

DISTRIBUTIONS FROM ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND

D. Allocation Methodology in the Event of Fund Shortage (T) (C) (D)

In the case of a fund shortage in any particular month, the administrator will distribute funds in the following priority:

1. Administrative costs;
2. Other universal service support programs listed in Section B of Sheet 12 of this tariff, oldest claims first, prorated among claimants within a monthly accounting period based on total unpaid claims for that period; and
3. Valid claims for universal service support accrued before March 17, 2018; except for those claims, AUSAC may not pay any claim that remains unpaid more than six months after accrual.

(C) (D)

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REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKARCA No. 998 Twenty-second Revised Sheet No. 27Cancelling Twenty-first Revised Sheet No. 27**ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY****RATES AND CHARGES****C. History of Surcharges in Effect**

The following is a history of all prior AUSF surcharge amounts authorized by the Commission and the effective dates:

| <u>Tariff Advice Number</u> | <u>Effective Date</u> | <u>Surcharge Amount</u> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| TA-1-998 | March 1, 1999 | 1.8% |
| TA-2-998 | January 1, 2000 | 1.2% |
| TA-3-998 | January 1, 2001 | 0.4% |
| TA-4-998 | January 1, 2002 | 0.56% |
| TA-5-998 | January 1, 2003 | 0.65% |
| TA-6-998 | January 1, 2004 | 0.96% |
| TA-7-998 | January 1, 2005 | 1.00% |
| TA-8-998 | January 1, 2006 | 1.2% |
| TA-9-998 | January 1, 2008 | 0.77% |
| TA-10-998 | January 1, 2009 | 1.05% |
| TA-11-998 | January 1, 2010 | 1.39% |
| TA-12-998 | January 1, 2011 | 1.32% |
| TA-13-998 | August 1, 2011 | 9.5% |
| TA-14-998 | January 1, 2012 | 9.5% |
| TA-15-998 | January 1, 2013 | 9.3% |
| TA-16-998 | January 1, 2014 | 9.2% |
| TA-18-998 | January 1, 2015 | 10.4% |
| TA-19-998 | January 1, 2016 | 11.5% |
| U-16-075(1) | September 1, 2016 (Interim) | 14.2% |
| U-16-075(3) | October 1, 2016 | 14.2% |
| TA-23-998 | January 1, 2017 | 14.2% |
| TA-25-998 | January 1, 2018 | 15.8% |
| TA-26-998 | January 1, 2018 | 19.0% (N) |

Tariff Advice No.: TA28-998

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Date Issued: _____

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ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

REPORTS AND FORMS

From time to time, the AUSAC may provide forms or reports for the collection of revenue and payment data from Subject Carriers or for the collection of data from Qualifying Carriers regarding numbers of access lines, or for the collection and disbursement of funds from the AUSF, or other purposes authorized by the Commission. A sample copy of each such form approved by the Commission is contained in Appendix I to this tariff.

(D)

Tariff Advice No. 29-998

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APPENDIX I

This Appendix contains samples of current Forms and Reports for the administration of the AUSF that have been approved by the Commission. The Forms and Reports are not numbered as tariff sheets. Forms and Reports included in Appendix I are:

| <u>Name of Form</u> | <u>Effective Date</u> | <u>No. of Pages</u> | |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------|-----|
| Monthly Carrier Remittance Worksheet | January 1, 2019 | 1 | |
| Monthly Carrier Remittance Worksheet Instructions | October 14, 2022 | 11 | (T) |

Tariff Advice No. 39-998 _____ Effective: October 14, 2022

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