

RCA No. 998 First Revised _____ Sheet No. 1

Cancelling _____ Original _____ Sheet No. 1

ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

AUSAC

ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

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Tariff Advice No. 6-998

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Issued By: **ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY**

By: _____
Don Reed

Title: President

ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Sheet</u>
Table of Contents	3
Location of Tariff	5
Concurring Carriers.....	6
Explanation of Symbols.....	7
Explanation of Abbreviations.....	8
Definition of Terms.....	9
PART I - GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS	
A. Applications and Authority	11
B. Purpose of Alaska Universal Service Fund	12
C. Duty, Limitation, and Liability.....	13
PART II - ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND SURCHARGE	
A. General.....	14
B. Carriers Subject to Payment of Surcharge.....	15
C. Exemptions from Payment of Surcharge	16
D. Approval by Commission	16
E. Calculation and Approval of Annual Surcharge	17
F. Periodic Updates to Surcharge Rate.....	18
PART III - PAYMENTS TO THE ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND	
A. Who Must Pay Into the AUSF	19
B. Notification of Surcharge	19
C. Calculations of Payments to AUSF.....	19
D. When and Where to File.....	19
E. Interest and Damages on Late Payments.....	20
F. Filing Revisions.....	20
G. Payment Disputes	21
H. Compliance Issues	21
I. Disputes and Complaints	22
J. Payment Required Regardless of Collections	22

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ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

	<u>Sheet</u>	
PART IV - DISTRIBUTIONS FROM ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND		
A. General.....	23	
B. DEM Weighting Support	24	
C. State Lifeline Support	25	
D. Allocation Methodology in the Event of a Fund Shortage	25	
PART V - RATES AND CHARGES		
A. Amount of Surcharge	26	
B. Collection from End Users.....	26	
C. History of Surcharges in Effect.....	27	
PART VI - REPORTS AND FORMS.....	28	
APPENDIX I	29	
Monthly Carrier Remittance Worksheet		(T)
Monthly Carrier Remittance Worksheet Instructions		(T)

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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
12350 Industry Way, Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99515
Phone: (907) 561-6300

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

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ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

CONCURRING CARRIERS

By order of the Commission (Order R-97-6(8)), Intrastate Telecommunications Carriers who file tariffs with the Commission may concur in the AUSF surcharge in this tariff by filing a concurring tariff sheet with the Commission. 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.

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ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

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

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ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

EXPLANATION OF ABBREVIATIONS

AAC	Alaska Administrative Code
APUC	Alaska Public Utilities Commission
AUSAC	Alaska Universal Service Administrative Company
AUSF	Alaska Universal Service Fund
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DBS	Direct Broadcast Satellite
DEM	Dial Equipment Minute
EFT	Electronic Funds Transfer
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
IXC	Interexchange Carrier
MTS	Message Telephone Service
OVS	Open Video Systems
PCS	Personal Communication Services
WATS	Wide Area Telephone Service

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ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

DEFINITION OF TERMS

AUSAC: The Alaska Universal Service Administration Company.

AUSE: The Alaska Universal Service Fund.

Commission: The Alaska Public Utilities Commission.

Concurring Carrier: Any intrastate telecommunications carrier who has elected to flow through AUSF surcharge amounts to end users and has filed a concurring tariff with the Commission.

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(f)(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).

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.

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.

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.

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ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Lifeline: A retail local service offering at reduced rates to qualifying low income customers. Lifeline has the same meaning as set out in 47 C.F.R. §54.401 that is in effect on November 1, 1998.

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.

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

State Lifeline Support: Payments made from the Alaska Universal Service Fund to qualifying carriers for residential access lines that qualify for Lifeline support in accordance with standards set by the Commission.

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

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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 Alaska Public Utilities Commission, 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.

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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. State Lifeline Support for qualifying residential low-income consumers in the amount not to exceed \$3.50 per month; and,
3. Such other purposes as the APUC may designate from time to time by regulation.

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ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

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.

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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 required to file tariffs with the Commission may recover the surcharge from ratepayers through a line item charge on their bills, identified as "Alaska Universal Service Fund Surcharge", by filing a concurring tariff with the APUC. 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.

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ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

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. 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; and
17. Pay phone services.

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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.

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ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

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 calculation shall be made according to the following formula:

$$\frac{(\text{DEM} + \text{SLS} + \text{O} + \text{B} + \text{A})}{\text{GR}}$$

- DEM = Estimated State DEM Weighting Support for Upcoming Calendar Year
- SLS = Estimated State Lifeline Support for Upcoming Calendar Year
- 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 ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

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.

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ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

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 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.

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. Payment shall be delinquent after the 20th calendar day.

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ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

PAYMENTS TO THE ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND

D. When and Where to File (Continued)

2. Payments due of sums greater than \$500.00 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. Payments of \$500.00 or less may be paid via check made payable to "Alaska Universal Service Fund", and mailed in time to arrive at AUSAC's office no later than the 20th calendar day of each month.
3. If EFT is technically not feasible, payment will be made by check mailed in time to be received prior to the 20th calendar day of the month with immediately available funds on the due date.

E. Interest and Damages on Late Payments

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 one percent (1%) of the total amount due will be charged.

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.

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ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

PAYMENTS TO THE ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND

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 APUC 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.

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By: _____
Ted Moninski

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ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

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.

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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:

1. State Dial Equipment Minute (DEM) Weighting Support;
2. State Lifeline Support; and,
3. Such other purposes as may be designated by the Commission by regulation.

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. The AUSAC shall distribute monthly to a Pooling Company one-twelfth of its annual DEM Weighting Support revenue requirement.
3. The DEM Weighting Support for a Pooling Company shall be determined by the Commission as part of the annual access charge process for a Pooling Company.
4. The total DEM Weighting Support to be allocated among Non-Pooling Companies in a study area is determined at the time that the Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier exits the pool and shall be based upon the most recently approved access charge revenue requirement of the Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier.
5. The AUSAC shall distribute monthly to Non-Pooling Companies in each study area one-twelfth of the annualized DEM Weighting Support for that study area by allocating the proportionate share of the DEM Weighting Support amount for that study area based upon each Qualifying Carrier's percentage of the number of access lines for that study area for that month, as reported to AUSAC by Non-Pooling Carriers in the preceding month.

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ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

DISTRIBUTIONS FROM ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND

C. State Lifeline Support

AUSF support for the Lifeline program shall be provided in an amount sufficient to maximize the Federal Lifeline contribution not to exceed \$3.50 per qualifying line per month. The administrator shall distribute each month, by check or EFT, no later than the 30th day of the month, to each telecommunications carrier eligible to receive State Lifeline Support an amount equal to the necessary state contribution per line times the monthly number of qualifying local Lifeline customer lines reported to AUSAC by the Qualifying Carrier in the preceding month.

D. Allocation Methodology in the Event of Fund Shortage

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

1. Administrative costs;
2. Universal service support eligible in a prior month but not funded in that month;
3. State Lifeline Support for the current month;
4. DEM Weighting Support for the current month.

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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%

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Trés Hargis

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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 Lifeline customers or number of access lines for Non-Pooling Companies, 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.

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ALASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

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, 2008	1	(T)
Monthly Carrier Remittance Worksheet Instructions	January 1, 2008	10	(T)

Pursuant to: U-07-162(20

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