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**OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
ALASKA**

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: J.P. Wood
Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development

FROM: Scott Meriwether, Office of the Lieutenant Governor
465.4081 

DATE: January 30, 2017

RE: Filed Permanent Regulations: Regulatory Commission of Alaska

Regulatory Commission of Alaska update to regulations re: Alaska Universal Service
Fund contribution base(3 AAC 53.340(a)(10); 3 AAC 53.399(12))

Attorney General File:	JU2016200221
Regulation Filed:	1/30/2017
Effective Date:	3/1/2017
Print:	221, April 2017

cc with enclosures: Linda Miller, Department of Law
Micaela Fowler, Department of Commerce, Community & Economic
Development
Judy Herndon, LexisNexis

ORDER CERTIFYING THE CHANGES TO
REGULATIONS OF REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA

The attached 1 page of regulations, dealing with Alaska Universal Service Fund Contribution Base (3 AAC 53.340, 3 AAC 53.399), is certified to be a correct copy of the regulation changes that the Regulatory Commission of Alaska adopted at its September 14, 2016, meeting, under the authority of AS 42.05.151 and after compliance with the Administrative Procedure Act (AS 44.62), specifically including notice under AS 44.62.190 and 44.62.200 and opportunity for public comment under AS 44.62.210.

This action is not expected to require an increased appropriation.

On the record, in considering public comments, the Regulatory Commission of Alaska paid special attention to the cost to private persons of the regulatory action being taken.

The regulation changes described in this order take effect on the 30th day after they have been filed by the lieutenant governor, as provided in AS 44.62.180.

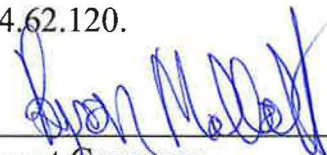
Date: 11/30/16
Anchorage, Alaska



Robert M. Pickett, Chairman

FILING CERTIFICATION

I, Byron Mallott, Lieutenant Governor for the State of Alaska, certify that on January 30, 20 17 at 8:09 A.m., I filed the attached regulations according to the provisions of AS 44.62.040 - 44.62.120.



Lieutenant Governor

Effective: March 1, 2017

Register: 221, April 2017

Register 221, April 2017 COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND EC. DEV.

(by adding a new paragraph)

3 AAC 53.340(a) is amended to read:

(((Publisher: Existing 3 AAC 53.340(a)(18) is unchanged, but change the period to a semicolon to reflect the addition of 3 AAC 53.340(a)(19).)))

(18) the network access fee assessed on end users in accordance with

section 109 of the *Alaska Intrastate Interexchange Access Charge Manual*, adopted by

reference in 3 AAC 48.440; [.]

boldface, and underline not necessary

(((lowercase)))

(19) Interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP).

(Eff. 1/10/99, Register 149; am 1/30/99, Register 149; am 7/31/2011, Register 199;

am 3 / 1 / 2017, Register 221)

Authority:	AS 42.05.141	AS 42.05.431	AS 42.05.840
	AS 42.05.145	AS 42.05.711	↓
	AS 42.05.151	AS 42.05.800	

(by adding a new paragraph)

3 AAC 53.399 is amended to read:

(((Publisher: Existing 3 AAC 53.399(11) is unchanged, but change the period to a semicolon to reflect the addition of 3 AAC 53.399(12).)))

(11) "study area" has the meaning given in 3 AAC 53.499; [.]

(((lowercase)))

(12) "Interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol" has the same

meaning as set out in 47 C.F.R. 9.3. (Eff. 1/10/99, Register 149; am 1/28/2005,

Register 173; am 7/31/2011, Register 199; am 3 / 1 / 2017, Register 221)

Authority:	AS 42.05.141	AS 42.05.431	AS 42.05.840
	AS 42.05.145	AS 42.05.711	↓
	AS 42.05.151	AS 42.05.800	

(((boldface and underline not necessary)))

MEMORANDUM


State of Alaska
Department of Law

To: Hon. Byron Mallott
Lieutenant Governor

Date: January 24, 2017

File No.: JU2016200221

Tel. No.: 465-3600

From: Steven C. Weaver 
Sr. Assistant Attorney General
and Assistant Regulations Attorney
Legislation and Regulations Section

Re: Regulatory Commission of Alaska
update to regulations re: Alaska
Universal Service Fund contribution
base (3 AAC 53.340(a)(19); 3 AAC
53.399(12))

We have reviewed the attached regulations from the Regulatory Commission of Alaska against the statutory standards of the Administrative Procedure Act. I have reviewed this project under a specific delegation dated January 24, 2017 from the Regulations Attorney. These regulations expand the Alaska Universal Service Fund contribution base to add interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), and add a definition of "interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP)" to parallel the Federal Communications Commission definition in 47 C.F.R. 9.3. *Cf.* 47 C.F.R. 54.5 (cross-referencing 47 C.F.R. 9.3 in defining an interconnected VoIP provider for purposes of federal universal service regulations).

We find no legal problems. This memorandum constitutes the written statement of approval under AS 44.62.060(b) and (c) that authorizes your office to file the attached regulations.

The March 22, 2016 public notice and the November 30, 2016 certification of adoption order both state that this action is not expected to require an increased appropriation. Therefore, a fiscal note under AS 44.62.195 is not required.

Hon. Byron Mallott, Lieutenant Governor
Our file: JU2016200221

January 24, 2017
Page 2

We have made some technical corrections to the regulations in accordance with AS 44.62.125, as shown on the attached copy.

SCW

cc w/enc: (via email)

Robert M. Pickett, Chair
Regulatory Commission of Alaska

Micaela Fowler, Regulations Contact
Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

J.P. Wood, Chief Administrative Law Judge and Regulations Specialist
Regulatory Commission of Alaska
Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

Rich Gazaway, Administrative Law Judge
Regulatory Commission of Alaska
Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

Megyn A. Greider, Assistant Attorney General
Commercial and Fair Business Section

Stuart W. Goering, Sr. Assistant Attorney General
Commercial and Fair Business Section

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska Department of Law

TO: Hon. Byron Mallott
Lieutenant Governor

DATE: January 24, 2017

FILE NO.: JU2016200221

TELEPHONE NO.: 465-3600

FROM: Susan R. Pollard *SRP*
Chief Assistant Attorney General
& Regulations Attorney
Legislation/Regulations Section

SUBJECT: Specific delegation of authority
regarding regulations review on
Regulatory Commission of
Alaska regulations re: Alaska
Universal Service Fund
contribution base (3 AAC
53.340(a)(19); 3 AAC
53.399(12))

By this memorandum, I am delegating my authority as Regulations Attorney under AS 44.62 to Assistant Attorney General Steven C. Weaver for the above-referenced regulations project. Under this delegation of authority, Steven Weaver has my full authority under AS 44.62 to conduct the legal review under AS 44.62 and take necessary actions on this regulations project.

If you have questions, please let me know.

SCW

cc w/enc: Scott C. Meriwether, AAC Coordinator
Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Steven C. Weaver
Sr. Assistant Attorney General
Legislation/Regulations Section—Juneau

AFFIDAVIT OF COMMISSION ACTION

I, Ryan Ponder, Common Carrier Specialist II for the Regulatory Commission of Alaska, being duly sworn, state the following:


The attached motion dealing with Alaska Universal Service Fund Contribution Base (3 AAC 53.340, 3 AAC 53.399) was passed by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska during its September 14, 2016, meeting.

Date: 23 Nov. 16



Ryan Ponder, Common Carrier Specialist II

Subscribed and sworn to before me at Anchorage, Alaska, on 11.23.16.



Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska
My commission expires with this office.

1 STATE OF ALASKA
2 REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA
3
4 Before Commissioners: Robert M. Pickett, Chairman
5 Stephen McAlpine
6 Rebecca L. Pauli
7 Norman Rokeberg
8 Janis W. Wilson
9
10

11 REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA
12 701 West Eighth Avenue, Suite 300
13 Anchorage, Alaska 99501
14
15

16 PUBLIC MEETING
17

18 September 14, 2016
19 9:00 a.m.
20
21
22
23
24
25

REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA

Public Meeting

September 14, 2016

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1 CHAIRMAN PICKETT: we'd like to
2 thank you for the presentation. we have been
3 waiting for it, but obviously --

4 MS. O'CONNOR: Me too.

5 CHAIRMAN PICKETT: -- the FCC had
6 to make a decision first before you could --

7 MS. O'CONNOR: Yes.

8 CHAIRMAN PICKETT: -- come make the
9 presentation, so --

10 MS. O'CONNOR: Yes.

11 CHAIRMAN PICKETT: -- thank you for
12 coming in in such a timely basis, and we'll look
13 forward to future presentations.

14 MS. O'CONNOR: All right. Thank
15 you very much.

16 CHAIRMAN PICKETT: We will take a
17 10-minute break and reconvene at 5 minutes after
18 10:00.

19 (Off record.)

20 CHAIRMAN PICKETT: Okay. We are
21 back on the record, it's approximately 10:08 a.m.
22 We are now on agenda item number three, R-15-007,
23 In the Matter of Consideration of the Petition
24 Filed by General Communications Corp. doing
25 business as General Communication, Inc. and GCI to

1 Amend 3 AAC 53.340 to Add Voice over Internet
2 Protocol Service to the List of Services Subject
3 to the Alaska Universal Service Fund Contribution
4 Requirement.

5 At the front table we have a
6 complete contingent, but I'm going to turn to
7 Mr. Gazaway first to introduce his team and turn
8 it over to the appropriate party to proceed.

9 ALJ GAZAWAY: Well, as you know,
10 this is the petition to expand the AUSF
11 contribution base to include Voice over Internet
12 Protocol, which everybody calls VoIP. And
13 Mr. Ponder has done a thorough job of analyzing
14 the filings, the comments.

15 At a previous meeting we talked
16 about the legal basis that the FCC ga -- states to
17 do that assessment, and Ryan's recommendation
18 stays in line with some of their recommended ways
19 of allocating costs between jurisdictions for that
20 determination purposes.

21 And I think he is prepared to
22 proceed with a presentation for you. Ryan, is
23 that -- and with us also is Steve Kramer, who is
24 also involved in the review.

25 CHAIRMAN PICKETT: So, Mr. Ponder,

1 include, "if currently used voluntarily
2 self-disclosure."

3 To close, staff recommends that the
4 Commission adopt the regulations as issued in
5 R-15-00 -- (2). In other words, option one of the
6 decisional matrix, along with the procedural
7 recommendations just made. Thank you very much,
8 Commissioners, for your time; and that concludes
9 staff's comments and recommendations.

10 CHAIRMAN PICKETT: Are there any
11 questions of Mr. Ponder? Okay. As far as making
12 the decision, I'm going to break it into two
13 pieces, there'll be two motions.

14 The first motion will be that we
15 should adopt the proposed amendments to Title 3,
16 Chapter 53 of the Alaska Administrative Code as
17 shown on Exhibit DRP-1 attached to your memo by
18 expanding the contribution base of the Alaska
19 Universal Service Fund, AUSF, to include:
20 interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol, VoIP,
21 service.

22 COMMISSIONER PAULI: Second.

23 CHAIRMAN PICKETT: Is there a
24 second?

25 COMMISSIONER PAULI: Second.

1 COMMISSIONER MCALPINE: Second.

2 CHAIRMAN PICKETT: Discussion on
3 the motion that's seconded before us? Seeing
4 none, we'll move on to the vote. All those in
5 favor say "aye."

6 COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

7 CHAIRMAN PICKETT: Opposed? Passes
8 unanimously. My second motion will deal with the
9 proposed procedural approach that staff
10 recommended. So, Ryan and Rich, listen carefully
11 to make sure that I don't miss anything.

12 MR. PONDER: Mr. Commissioner --
13 or, Mr. Chairman, the second part of option one is
14 found -- for the definition to include the
15 definition of VoIP under 53.399. That's on page 4
16 of the matrix.

17 CHAIRMAN PICKETT: Okay. Okay. So
18 is that number 12?

19 MR. PONDER: That's correct --

20 CHAIRMAN PICKETT: Okay.

21 MR. PONDER: -- Mr. Chairman. And
22 then the effective date of these as well being put
23 into your motion.

24 CHAIRMAN PICKETT: Okay. So I'm
25 trying to figure out the most efficient way to

1 address all of the procedural issues that you have
2 on this that --

3 MR. PONDER: I think exactly what
4 Mr. Chairman was doing in regards to adopting both
5 the regulatory additions -- or amendments --

6 CHAIRMAN PICKETT: Uh-huh.

7 MR. PONDER: -- that you -- you hit
8 the first one. We just needed to hit that second
9 one, which is the VoIP definition; and then moving
10 in to a second motion which is the procedural --

11 CHAIRMAN PICKETT: Okay.

12 MR. PONDER: -- policies.

13 CHAIRMAN PICKETT: So as part of
14 the motion that we just passed, little
15 unconventional procedurally -- the maker of the
16 second was Commissioner McAlpine; is that correct?

17 ALJ GAZAWAY: Commissioner, a
18 second alternative is just to add a second motion
19 where you adopt 399 -- the definition of VoIP at
20 399.

21 CHAIRMAN PICKETT: Okay.

22 COMMISSIONER PAULI: Yeah.

23 CHAIRMAN PICKETT: Well, let's go
24 ahead and do that, that's probably the best way.
25 Let's -- I will move that we adopt the definition

1 of interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol as
2 having the same meaning as set out in 47 CFR 9.3;
3 is that correct?

4 MR. PONDER: That's correct,
5 Mr. Chairman.

6 CHAIRMAN PICKETT: Second?

7 COMMISSIONER McALPINE: Second.

8 CHAIRMAN PICKETT: Discussion? All
9 those in favor say "aye."

10 COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

11 CHAIRMAN PICKETT: And the third
12 motion will deal with the procedural issues. So I
13 will move that in the adoption order require the
14 VoIP providers to use the same methodology to
15 determine the revenues subject to the State USF
16 assessment that it uses to determine the
17 appropriate jurisdictional split of revenues for
18 federal USF contribution purposes, the safe harbor
19 rule calculation, the development of a traffic
20 study, or the actual revenue allocations between
21 interstate and intrastate calls.

22 And the second procedural issue
23 would be that AUSAC carry the responsibility of
24 identifying entities providing interconnected VoIP
25 service in Alaska and monitoring the compliance of

1 entities subject to the obligation to pay US --
2 AUSF on VoIP revenues.

3 And the third element of the
4 procedural issues will be, through the adoption
5 order, AUSAC be directed to initially identify and
6 give notice to all VoIP providers, both actively
7 and inactively servicing Alaska by using the FCC
8 Form 499 database. Thereafter, AUSAC be allowed
9 to utilize the current common practice it employs
10 for identifying providers of the other services
11 listed under 3 AAC 53.340.

12 Does that cover in the motion your
13 procedural issues?

14 MS. O'CONNOR: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

15 CHAIRMAN PICKETT: Is there a
16 second to that motion?

17 COMMISSIONER PAULI: Second.

18 CHAIRMAN PICKETT: Discussion? All
19 those in favor of the motion say "aye." Aye.

20 COMMISSIONER PAULI: Aye.

21 COMMISSIONER WILSON: Aye.

22 COMMISSIONER ROKEBERG: Aye.

23 CHAIRMAN PICKETT: Opposed?

24 COMMISSIONER MCALPINE: Nay.

25 CHAIRMAN PICKETT: Okay. Four ayes

*This is the
vote on the
adoption order
language - not
the regulation.*

1 and one nay. Is there anything else that you
2 require from the Commission at this point? And
3 does the AG have any comments?

4 MS. GREIDER: No additional
5 comments. Thank you, Chairman.

6 CHAIRMAN PICKETT: Okay. Thank
7 you, Mr. Ponder, it was a very good memo; and
8 thank you for your presentation.

9 MR. PONDER: Thank you,
10 Mr. Chairman.

11 CHAIRMAN PICKETT: And that will
12 conclude this agenda item. The next one will be
13 agenda four, R-16-001, In the Matter of the
14 Consideration of Regulations Governing
15 Confidential Records. Commissioner Pauli?

16 COMMISSIONER PAULI: We'll let
17 staff switch out here. Okay. Would staff care to
18 introduce themselves for the record on this?

19 MR. PARRISH: Sure, I'm David
20 Parrish with the common carrier section.

21 ALJ DAVIS: Jeff Davis,
22 administrative law judge.

23 CHAIRMAN PICKETT: Okay. And when
24 I arrived it appeared that there were some pro
25 forma matters going on; and it seemed best to put

AFFIDAVIT OF NOTICE OF PROPOSED REGULATION
AND FURNISHING OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION


I, Richard L. Gazaway, Advisory Section Manager, of Regulatory Commission of Alaska, being sworn, state the following:

As required by AS 44.62.190, notice of the proposed adoption of changes to Alaska Universal Service Fund Contribution Base (3 AAC 53.340, 3 AAC 53.399) has been given by being

- (1) published in a newspaper or trade publication;
- (2) furnished to interested persons;
- (3) furnished to appropriate state officials;
- (4) furnished to the Department of Law, along with a copy of the proposed regulation;
- (5) furnished electronically to incumbent State of Alaska legislators;
- (6) furnished to the Legislative Affairs Agency, Division of Legal and Research Services;
- (7) posted on the Alaska Online Public Notice System as required by AS 44.62.175(a)(1) and (b) and 44.62.190(a)(1);
- (8) furnished electronically, along with a copy of the proposed regulation, to the Legislative Affairs Agency, the chair of the Labor & Commerce Committee of the Alaska Senate and House of Representatives, the Administrative Regulation Review Committee, and the legislative council.


As required by AS 44.62.190, additional regulation notice information regarding the proposed adoption of the regulation changes described above has been furnished to interested persons and those in (5) and (6) of the list above. The additional regulation notice information also has been posted on the Alaska Online Public Notice System.

Date: 11.23.16



Richard L. Gazaway, Advisory Section Manager

Subscribed and sworn to before me at Anchorage, Alaska, on 11.23.16.



Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska
My commission expires with this office.

COPY

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE
REGULATIONS OF THE REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA**

The Regulatory Commission of Alaska (Commission) proposes, in Docket R-15-007, to adopt regulation changes in Title 3 of the Alaska Administrative Code expanding the Alaska Universal Service Fund (AUSF) contribution base. Specifically, the Commission is considering amending 3 AAC 53.340(a) to include interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) as a service that is subject to the AUSF surcharge. In addition, the Commission is considering adopting a definition of interconnected VoIP under 3 AAC 53.399.

You may comment on the proposed regulation changes, including the potential costs to private persons of complying with the proposed changes, by submitting written comments to the Regulatory Commission of Alaska at 701 West 8th Avenue, Suite 300, Anchorage, Alaska 99501. Additionally, the Regulatory Commission of Alaska will accept comments via its website at:

<http://rca.alaska.gov/RCASWeb/WhatsNew/PublicNoticesComments.aspx>.

Initial comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., on April 20, 2016, and should reference Docket R-15-007. Reply comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., on May 11, 2016, and should also reference Docket R-15-007.

If you are a person with a disability who needs a special accommodation in order to participate in this process, please contact Joyce McGowan at 907-276-6222, toll-free at 1-800-390-2782, TTY (907) 276-4533 or by electronic mail to rca.mail@alaska.gov no later than April 13, 2016, for initial comments and May 4, 2016, for reply comments to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.

Since this is a regulations proceeding, commenters are not required to serve their comments on the other entities set out on the service list of this notice. Interested persons may request from the Commission copies of the comments filed in this

proceeding. For a copy of the proposed regulation changes and related materials contact the Commission's Records & Filings Section at the above address or at (907) 276-6222 or go to: <http://rca.alaska.gov/RCAWeb/Home.aspx>. Those seeking to obtain the materials on the website may select "All Open Rule-making Dockets" under *Top Searches* and choose Matter Number "R-15-007."

After the public comment period ends, the Commission will either adopt the proposed regulation changes or other provisions dealing with the same subject, without further notice, or decide to take no action. The language of the final regulations may be different from that of the proposed regulations. **YOU SHOULD COMMENT DURING THE TIME ALLOWED IF YOUR INTERESTS COULD BE AFFECTED.** Written comments received are public records and are subject to public inspection.

Statutory Authority: AS 42.05.141, AS 42.05.145, AS 42.05.151, AS 42.05.431, AS 42.05.711, AS 42.05.800, AS 42.05.840.

Statutes Being Implemented, Interpreted, or Made Specific: AS 42.05.840.

Fiscal Information: The proposed regulation changes are not expected to require an increased appropriation, and a fiscal note is not required.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, 21st day of March 2016.

REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA



Robert M. Pickett, Chairman

COPY

ADDITIONAL REGULATION NOTICE INFORMATION
(AS 44.62.190(g))

1. Adopting agency: Regulatory Commission of Alaska
2. General subject of regulation: Alaska Universal Service Fund (AUSF)
3. Citation of regulation (may be grouped): 3 AAC 53.340 and 3 AAC 53.399
4. Department of Law file number, if any: JU2016200221
5. Reason for the proposed action:
 - () Compliance with federal law
 - () Compliance with new or changed state statute
 - () Compliance with court order
 - () Development of program standards
 - (X) Other (identify): General Communication, Inc.'s petition to expand regulations governing the AUSF contribution base to include Interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol

6. Appropriation/Allocation: Commerce/RCA

7. Cost of implementation to the state agency and available funding (in thousands of dollars):

	Initial Year	Subsequent
	FY <u>2016</u>	Years
Operating Cost	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
Capital Cost	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
1002 Federal receipts	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
1003 General fund match	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
1004 General fund	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
1005 General fund/ program	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
Other (identify)	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>

8. The name of the contact person for the regulation:

Name: Richard Gazaway
Title: Advisory Section Manager
Address: 701 W. Eighth Avenue, Suite 300
Anchorage, AK 99501
Telephone: 907-263-2164
E-mail address: richard.gazaway@alaska.gov

9. The origin of the proposed action:

- ☐ Staff of state agency
☐ Federal government
☐ General public
☒ Petition for regulation change
☐ Other (identify) _____

10. Date: March 21, 2016

Prepared by: _____



[signature]

Name: Robert M. Pickett

Title: Chairman

Telephone: 907-276-6222

268448
#1382740
\$353.60

R.C.A.
RECEIVED
16 APR 13 PM 1:26

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF ALASKA
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Emma Dunlap
being first duly sworn on oath
deposes and says that she is
a representative of the
Alaska Dispatch News, a
daily newspaper. That said
newspaper has been approved
by the Third Judicial Court,
Anchorage, Alaska, and it now
and has been published in the
English language continually as a
daily newspaper in Anchorage,
Alaska, and it is now and during
all said time was printed in an
office maintained at the aforesaid
place of publication of said
newspaper. That the annexed is
a copy of an advertisement as it
was published in regular issues
(and not in supplemental form)
of said newspaper on

March 22, 2016

and that such newspaper was
regularly distributed to its
subscribers during all of said
period. That the full amount of
the fee charged for the foregoing
publication is not in excess of
the rate charged private individuals.

Signed

Emma Dunlap

Subscribed and sworn to before

me this 11 day of APRIL

20 16

Britney Thompson

Notary Public in and for
The State of Alaska.
Third Division
Anchorage, Alaska
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES

2/23/19

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE REGULATIONS OF THE REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA

The Regulatory Commission of Alaska (Commission) proposes, in Docket R-15-007, to adopt regulation changes in Title 3 of the Alaska Administrative Code expanding the Alaska Universal Service Fund (AUSF) contribution base. Specifically, the Commission is considering amending 3 AAC 53.340(a) to include interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) as a service that is subject to the AUSF surcharge. In addition, the Commission is considering adopting a definition of interconnected VoIP under 3 AAC 53.399.

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<http://rca.alaska.gov/RCAWeb/WhatsNew/PublicNoticesComments.asp>
x.

Initial comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., on April 20, 2016, and should reference Docket R-15-007. Reply comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., on May 11, 2016, and should also reference Docket R 15-007.

If you are a person with a disability who needs a special accommodation in order to participate in this process, please contact Joyce McGowan at 907-276-6222, toll-free at 1-800-390-2782, TTY (907) 276-4533 or by electronic mail to rca.mail@alaska.gov no later than April 13, 2016, for initial comments and May 4, 2016, for reply comments to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.

Since this is a regulations proceeding, commenters are not required to serve their comments on the other entities set out on the service list of this notice. Interested persons may request from the Commission copies of the comments filed in this proceeding. For a copy of the proposed regulation changes and related materials contact the Commission's Records & Filings Section at the above address or at (907) 276-6222 or go to: <http://rca.alaska.gov/RCAWeb/Home.aspx>. Those seeking to obtain the materials on the website may select "All Open Rule-making Dockets" under Top Searches and choose Matter Number "R-15-007."

After the public comment period ends, the Commission will either adopt the proposed regulation changes or other provisions dealing with the same subject, without further notice, or decide to take no action. The language of the final regulations may be different from that of the proposed regulations. **YOU SHOULD COMMENT DURING THE TIME ALLOWED IF YOUR INTERESTS COULD BE AFFECTED.** Written comments received are public records and are subject to public inspection.

Statutory Authority: AS 42.05.141, AS 42.05.145, AS 42.05.151, AS 42.05.431, AS 42.05.711, AS 42.05.800, AS 42.05.840.

Statutes Being Implemented, Interpreted, or Made Specific: AS 42.05.840.

Fiscal Information: The proposed regulation changes are not expected to require an increased appropriation, and a fiscal note is not required.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, 21st day of March 2016.

REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA

Robert M. Pickett, Chairman

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Notary Public
BRITNEY L. THOMPSON
State of Alaska
My Commission Expires Feb 23, 2019