

BEFORE THE GUAM PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



IN THE MATTER OF:)
TELEGUAM HOLDINGS LLC,) GTA DOCKET 13-02
GENERAL EXCHANGE TARIFF NO. 1,) PUC COUNSEL REPORT
TARIFF TRANSMITTAL NO. 24)

INTRODUCTION

1. This matter comes before the Guam Public Utilities Commission ["PUC"] upon the submission of Tariff Transmittal No. 24 by Teleguam Holdings LLC ["GTA"] to establish a permanent tariff for "GTA Emergency Line Service."¹
2. This Tariff will provide an Emergency Line to GTA customers who subscribe to internet services but do not want to subscribe to traditional voice phone line services. This service will allow customers to make critical 911 calls, GTA service calls and other limited voice calls through their GTA internet lines.²
3. GTA proposes that Emergency Line Service would be effective on August 1, 2013.

BACKGROUND

4. On four different occasions, GTA previously provided a promotional offering (CAP Line) for customers who subscribe to Spyder Broadband Services with limited voice services.³ Under such offering, GTA provided customers with a CAP Emergency Line providing a residential one-party access line with certain limitations.
5. The CAP Line service for a promotional offering for residential one-party access lines was approved by the PUC on four separate occasions as a limited, short term offering. The promotional offerings were approved as Tariff Transmittals No. 14⁴, No. 16⁵, No. 21⁶, and No. 23⁷.
6. In each instance, the promotional offering by GTA for residential one-party access lines was in effect from between three and four months.

¹ GTA Tariff Transmittal No. 24, GTA Docket 13-02, filed June 27, 2013.

² Id.

³ PUC Order, GTA Docket 13-01, issued March 26, 2013, at p. 3.

⁴ PUC Order, GTA Docket 10-05, issued July 27, 2010.

⁵ PUC Order, GTA Docket 11-02, issued March 21, 2011.

⁶ PUC Order, GTA Docket 12-11, issued November 20, 2012.

⁷ PUC Order, GTA Docket 13-01, issued March 26, 2013.

7. In its Order dated March 26, 2013, the PUC noted that the promotional offering for CAP Line Service has been in effect on four occasions: "should GTA seek to reintroduce this Tariff, it shall address the issue in its filing of whether or not it is appropriate to continue to reintroduce the offering as a promotional temporary tariff, or whether it should seek to establish a permanent tariff."⁸
8. In accordance with the March 26, 2013 Order, GTA has now sought to make Emergency Line Service a permanent tariff offering rather than a promotional tariff.⁹
9. GTA submits that the Emergency Line Service is beneficial in that it will allow customers to make critical 911 calls, GTA service calls and other limited voice calls through their GTA internet lines.¹⁰
10. GTA has proposed the Emergency Line Service as a revision to its General Exchange Tariff No. 1. The tariff appears as "Emergency Line Service, Section XVI to General Exchange Tariff No. 1."¹¹
11. The Emergency Line Service is a limited local exchange service that is bundled with GTA Internet Service. The Emergency Line allows subscribers to originate local calls only to E911, 511 and calls to the GTA Repair Center. Emergency Lines have unlimited incoming local and toll calls. 1+800 calls may also be originated on an emergency line.¹²
12. The Emergency Line Services are offered in all exchanges where technically available. Subscribers must purchase a GTA Internet Service of at least five (5) Mbps to qualify for an Emergency Line. The Emergency Line is not a standalone service.¹³
13. Emergency Line Service is available to residents and basic business line subscribers who meet the qualifications.¹⁴

⁸ PUC Order, GTA Docket 13-01, issued March 26, 2013, at p. 3.

⁹ GTA Tariff Transmittal No. 24, GTA Docket 13-02, filed June 27, 2013.

¹⁰ Id.

¹¹ See Revision to General Exchange Tariff No. 1, Section 5, Original Page No. 72 (attached to GTA Tariff Transmittal No. 24).

¹² Id.

¹³ Id.

¹⁴ Id.

14. The Rates for Emergency Line Service are as follows:

	Recurring*	Nonrecurring*
Residential	\$7.00	\$7.50
Business	\$24.00	\$15.00

*rates do not include the rate for GTA Internet Service¹⁵

15. GTA did provide copies of its Tariff Transmittal No. 24 filing to certain other telecom companies within Guam.¹⁶
16. The PUC caused public notice of this Tariff Filing to be published in the Pacific Daily News on July 5, 2013.¹⁷ Said notice gave interested parties until July 29, 2013, to file any comments concerning the tariff. To date, no such comments have been filed.

ANALYSIS

17. Emergency Line Service is beneficial to residential and business customers of GTA in that it provides an Emergency Line Service that would not otherwise be available. Such service promotes the ability of GTA customers to call E911 for emergencies and to call GTA for repairs.
18. This Tariff will help to insure that customers have access to critical services like E911 and the ability to call GTA for service issues.¹⁸ One of the purposes of the Guam Telecommunications Act of 2004 is to provide the people of Guam access to modern, innovative and affordable telecommunications services.¹⁹
19. This permanent Tariff will also promote the purposes set forth in GTA's General Exchange Tariff No. 1 at Section XVII, which include the attraction of new customers, the retention of existing customers, and the stimulation of customer usage.

¹⁵ Id.

¹⁶ GTA Tariff Transmittal No. 24, GTA Docket 13-02, filed June 27, 2013.

¹⁷ Public Notice published in the Pacific Daily News, July 5, 2013.

¹⁸ Id.

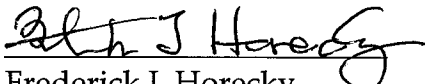
¹⁹ 12 GCA §12101(b).

20. On July 3, 2013, PUC Counsel met with GTA Legal Counsel Serge Quenga and Lucia Perez, Managing Director of Legal, Regulatory, Security & External Affairs. The GTA representatives indicated that the E911 surcharge would be charged on the proposed Emergency Line Service. Thus, the service will further promote revenues for the E911 system.
21. In addition, the residential charge for the limited Emergency Line Service, at \$7.00 per month, is only approximately one-half of the normal charge for full residential line service. Again, this offering will promote the ability of customers to utilize such service, particularly where such customers either cannot afford or do not wish to utilize full residential line service.
22. Counsel believes that it is important for GTA to publish the availability of its services, such as Emergency Line Service and other services established through Tariff Transmittals, on its website. Having reviewed the website, Counsel concludes that GTA is up to date in the listing of Tariff Transmittals which have been approved by the Guam Public Utilities Commission.²⁰

RECOMMENDATION

23. In accordance with the provisions of 12 GCA §12106(b), and for the reasons set forth above, the PUC should approve GTA's Tariff Transmittal No. 24 for Emergency Line Service.
24. GTA's Tariff for Emergency Line Service should be effective August 1, 2013.
25. A draft Order is submitted to the Commissioners for their consideration.

Dated this 18th day of July 2013.


Frederick J. Horecky
PUC Legal Counsel

²⁰ See www.gta.net/terms-of-use.