



DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES & CARRIERS
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MEMORANDUM

To: Public Utilities Commission

From: Thomas Kogut, Associate Administrator
AI Contente, Utility Analyst

Date: October 20, 2020

Re: Verizon Rhode Island - Tariff Filing to Change Residential Rates (10/1/20)

On October 1, 2020, Verizon Rhode Island filed a proposed tariff change that would increase the monthly rate by \$1.00 for Unlimited 1 Party and Measured 1 Party customers.

Additionally, the filing included a proposed monthly rate increase of \$5.00 for several Residential Packages (Local Package, Local Package Extra, Regional Package, Regional Package Extra, Regional Package Unlimited, Regional Essentials and Regional Value). The above-mentioned packages, except for Regional Essentials and Regional Value are no longer available for new customers. Customers remaining on these package rates haven't seen price increase in a number of years. The following table summarizes the proposed changes:

Produce Name	Current Price	Proposed Price	% increase
Measured 1 Party	\$9.17	\$10.17	10.9%
Unlimited 1 Party	Range: \$15.30 – \$19.76	\$16.30 - \$20.76	5.1 – 6.5%
Local Package	\$50.99	\$55.99	9.8%
Local Package Extra	\$54.99	\$59.99	9.0%
Regional Package	\$58.95	\$63.95	8.4%
Regional Package Extra	\$63.99	\$68.99	7.8%
Regional Package Unlimited	\$54.00	\$59.00	9.3%
Regional Essentials	\$48.04	\$53.04	10.4%
Regional Value	\$46.04	\$51.04	10.9%

An amended tariff filing was made on October 13, 2020 to include a \$1.00 monthly increase for the measured service Lifeline subsidy.

To put these filings in regulatory context, the Commission, in 2006, approved the current Alternative Form of Regulation Plan (“Plan”) which essentially gives Verizon retail residential service pricing flexibility with the notable exception of stand-alone measured Lifeline service.

Verizon addresses this issue in a data response (PUC-VZ-1-2). *The original tariff filing was not intended to change the rates for measured service paid by Lifeline customers. On October 13, 2020, Verizon filed an amendment to its tariff filing in Docket 5074. This amendment increases the Verizon funded monthly lifeline discount for measured service by \$1.00, so that customers who subscribe to measured service with the Lifeline discount will not be affected by the proposed \$1.00 rate increase to measured service.*

Noting PUC Order 19540 which provides for Division tariff review for compliance with the Plan and with no net impact on measured service lifeline customers, the Division believes the amended tariff filing in Docket 5074 complies with the pricing flexibility limitations of the Plan (see PUC Order 18550). The proper tariff change fee was paid by check #0130018. The Division recommends that the Commission approve the proposed amended tariff as filed.