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July 12, 2021
Via Web Filing

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen, Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol Avenue
Capitol Building, 1st Floor
Pierre, SD 57501

**RE: Intrado Communications, LLC
Letter of Explanation
Docket No. TC21-071**

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

Please accept this letter submitted on behalf of Intrado Communications, LLC ("Company"). The purpose of this filing is to further explain why the Company submitted only revisions to the Query in Docket No. TC21-071.

Regarding the Query, the FCC Order says: "We now amend section 51.911 of our rules to make clear that beginning **July 1, 2021**, a competitive local exchange carrier providing interstate or intrastate switched exchange access services for use in the delivery of a Toll-Free Call shall not have a tariffed interstate or intrastate Toll-Free Database Query Charge rate that exceeds the rate charged by the competing ILEC."

The MOU (End Office and Tandem/Transport) rate changes, however, are different. As carriers that benchmark to the ILECs, CLECs are allowed under the FCC benchmarking rules to file 15 days after the ILEC tariffs go into effect.^[1] These tariffs will generally be filed on a 15-day basis, which pushes the effective date to July 31, 2021. This has been confirmed with FCC Staff who affirmed our ability as a CLEC to file *two* tariff revisions with the first reducing the Query rates effective July 1 (because the Order appears to express that intent) and the second to change other rates to benchmark to the ILECs -- including the 8YY End Office reductions and Tandem/Transport changes. Paragraph 49 of the Order (addressing end office rates) reads "We amend sections 51.907 and 51.909 of our rules to effectuate this transition for price cap and rate-of-return carriers and rely on the application of the existing benchmark requirements in sections 51.911(c) and 61.26 of our rules to apply this same transition to tariffed rates charged by competitive local exchange carriers. Paragraph 52 of the Order (addressing the tandem/transport rates) reads "We amend sections 51.907 and 51.909 of our rules to effectuate this transition for price cap and rate-of-return carriers and rely on the application of the existing benchmark requirements in sections 51.911(c) and 61.26 of our rules to apply this same transition to tariffed rates charged by competitive local exchange carriers."

^[1] **§ 61.26 Tariffing of competitive interstate switched exchange access services.**

(c) The benchmark rate for a CLEC's switched exchange access services will be the rate charged for similar services by the competing ILEC. If an ILEC to which a CLEC benchmarks its rates, pursuant to this section, lowers the rate to which a CLEC benchmarks, the CLEC must revise its rates to the lower level within 15 days of the effective date of the lowered ILEC rate.

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Any questions you may have regarding this filing should be directed to my attention at 407-740-3002 or via email to cwrightman@inteserra.com. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/Connie Wightman

Connie Wightman
Consultant

cc: Robert W. McCausland – Intrado Communications, LLC

tms: Via Email

Enclosures
CW/rs