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DOCKET# 32235
DOCUMENT# 221625

Docket No. 32235

In Re: **Generic Proceeding to Implement House Bill 168**

ORDER ADOPTING FINDINGS OF AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES APPLIED TO PAYMENTS BY CONTRIBUTORS TO THE UNIVERSAL ACCESS FUND

I. Background

On June 8, 2023, the Georgia Public Service Commission issued its Request for Proposals to Conduct Agreed-Upon Procedures Engagements on One or More Contributors to the Universal Access Fund ("RFP"). Only one bidder, Hurlbert CPA, LLC ("Hurlbert CPA"), responded to the RFP with a bid of $2500 per engagement. The Commission approved the bid and $25,000 in funding for the agreed-upon procedures engagements ("AUPs") at its June 20, 2023 Administrative Session. At the conclusion of the AUPs $1,735,224.83 was returned to the Universal Access Fund ("UAF").

At the request of Staff, Hurlbert CPA submitted a bid to again conduct AUPs on contributors to the UAF. Hurlbert CPA offered the same pricing as last year, and the Commission approved the bid and $25,000 of funding at its September 4, 2024 Administrative Session.

The funding approved by the Commission was sufficient for 10 contributors to undergo the agreed-upon procedures.

Consistent with the selection process adopted for last year's AUPs, Staff recommended that the Commission select the top 10 contributors by dollars contributed, excluding any companies that underwent AUPs last year. In the event a company has two or more affiliates in the top 10, the affiliate with the larger contribution should be selected.

Staff further recommended that the agreed-upon procedures performed on these 10 contributors should evaluate contributions remitted for the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 (i.e., the third and fourth quarters of 2023 and the first and second quarters of 2024).

Under the Staff's recommendation, the following contributors, in alphabetical order, would undergo agreed-upon procedures:

1. Charter Fiberlink - Georgia, LLC
2. Cox Georgia Telcom, LLC d/b/a Cox Communications
3. Crown Castle Fiber LLC
4. Fusion Cloud Services, LLC
5. Hargray of Georgia, Inc. d/b/a Clearwave Fiber
6. Inmate Calling Solutions, LLC d/b/a ICSolutions
7. Lingo Telecom, LLC d/b/a Bullseye
8. MCC Telephony of Georgia, LLC d/b/a Mediacom
9. Metropolitan Telecommunications of Georgia, LLC. d/b/a MetTel
10. Windstream Communications, LLC

On September 25, 2024, the Commission issued an order adopting Staff's proposed list of contributors to undergo agreed-upon procedures.

Hurlbert CPA concluded the agreed-upon procedures of all contributors on December 5, 2024 and provided reports to Staff documenting its findings. The reports indicate that all ten companies contributed the correct amounts, within $0.02, to the UAF.

Contributor Name	**Overpayment (Underpayment)**
Charter Fiberlink - Georgia, LLC	$ 0.01
Cox Georgia Telcom, LLC d/b/a Cox Communications	$ 0.02
Crown Castle Fiber LLC	$ 0.01
Fusion Cloud Services, LLC	$ -
Hargray of Georgia, Inc. d/b/a Clearwave Fiber	$ -
Inmate Calling Solutions, LLC d/b/a ICSolutions	$ -
Lingo Telecom, LLC d/b/a Bullseye	$ (0.01)
MCC Telephony of Georgia, LLC d/b/a Mediacom	$ -
Metropolitan Telecommunications of Georgia, LLC. d/b/a MetTel	$ (0.01)
Windstream Communications, LLC	$ -
	$ 0.02

II. Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends adoption of Hurlbert CPA's findings. Because the discrepancies in the amounts due to or owed from the UAF are de minimis, Staff recommends that the contributors neither be required to remit funds to the UAF nor receive refunds from the UAF.

III. Commission Decision

The Commission adopts the Staff's recommendation for the reasons stated therein.

* * * * *

WHEREFORE, it is

ORDERED, that the findings by Hurlbert CPA in the agreed-upon procedures applied to payments by contributors to the UAF as set forth above are hereby adopted.

ORDERED FURTHER, that a motion for reconsideration, rehearing, oral argument, or any other motion shall not stay the effective date of this Order, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission.

ORDERED FURTHER, that jurisdiction over this matter is expressly retained for the purpose of entering such further Order(s) as this Commission may deem just and proper.

The above by action of the Commission in Administrative Session on the 4th day of March 2025.

Sallie Tanner
Executive Secretary

3-4-25
DATE

Jason Shaw
Chairman

3-4-25
DATE