



Telecom Order CRTC 2007-473

Ottawa, 7 December 2007

NorthernTel, Limited Partnership

Reference: Tariff Notice 233

Cellular Access Service

1. The Commission received an application by NorthernTel, Limited Partnership (NorthernTel), dated 24 April 2007, to introduce Trunk-Side Access Service to its Cellular Access Service (referred to in this Order as wireless access service (WAS)) at section N230 of its General Tariff. NorthernTel proposed to offer the service at the same rates as those approved for Télébec Limited Partnership (Télébec) in Telecom Decisions 2006-31 and 2007-7. NorthernTel did not file supporting cost studies.
2. NorthernTel submitted that trunk-side access meant any connecting arrangement provided by the company over which calls dialed 1+, 0+, 00-, 1+950, 10XXX, 1+800/888, 01+ and 011+ can be routed to interexchange carrier (IXC) or wireless service provider (WSP) networks and over which traffic from the IXC or WSP networks can be routed for termination on the local public switched telephone network.
3. In Telecom Order 2007-153, the Commission approved NorthernTel's application on an interim basis.
4. The Commission received comments from RCI Communications Inc. (RCI). The record of this proceeding closed with NorthernTel's reply comments dated 31 May 2007. The public record of this proceeding is available on the Commission's website at www.crtc.gc.ca under "Public Proceedings."

Positions of parties

5. RCI submitted that it had obtained trunk-side WAS for several years from NorthernTel based on Télébec's line-side WAS service rates. RCI noted that NorthernTel's proposed trunk-side WAS rates were significantly higher than what RCI currently paid to NorthernTel for trunk-side WAS. RCI requested that the Commission approve NorthernTel's application but at Télébec's WAS line-side rates.
6. NorthernTel noted that RCI was aware that NorthernTel's Cellular Access Service tariff did not distinguish between line-side and trunk-side access service. NorthernTel also noted that RCI stated that it had been obtaining trunk-side access service from NorthernTel based on Télébec's line-side service rates. NorthernTel submitted that the incorrect rates had been applied in error and that RCI had been enjoying the benefit of the billing error for several years.

7. NorthernTel noted that it was not asking the Commission to approve its proposal on a retroactive basis.

Commission's analysis and determinations

8. In Telecom Decision 2006-14, the Commission extended, with some modifications, the regulatory framework established in Telecom Decision 2001-756 for the small incumbent local exchange carriers (SILECs). The Commission established four service baskets. The fourth service basket is comprised of optional services, multi-element service categories, special facilities tariffs, and competitor access tariffs. The Commission notes that trunk-side WAS is a competitor service and is therefore correctly classified under the fourth service basket.
9. For new services being introduced and classified in the fourth service basket, the SILEC should generally file supporting costing information to demonstrate that the proposed rates are compensatory. However, on occasions, the Commission has found it acceptable for SILECs to propose rates for new services that are the same as the approved rates offered by another ILEC or SILEC for the same service in lieu of filing costing information.
10. In Telecom Decision 2006-31, the Commission approved, on a final basis, revised rates for NorthernTel's line-side WAS, and in Telecom Order 2007-192, the Commission approved, on a final basis, Télébec's trunk-side WAS rates. The Commission further notes that NorthernTel's proposed rates are consistent with the directives given to Télébec in Telecom Order 2007-192.
11. In light of the above, the Commission **approves on a final basis** NorthernTel's trunk-side WAS at the same rates as those already approved for Télébec's trunk-side WAS, effective the date of this Order.

Secretary General

Related Documents

- *Télébec, Société en commandite – Trunk-side wireless access rates and related issues*, Telecom Order CRTC 2007-192, 28 May 2007
- Telecom Order CRTC 2007-153, 3 May 2007
- *Société en commandite Télébec – Trunk-side wireless access service rates*, Telecom Decision CRTC 2007-7, 7 February 2007
- *Rogers Wireless Inc. – Part VII application seeking review of line-side wireless access service interconnection rates in the territories of Société en commandite Télébec, TELUS Communications Company operating in Quebec and the small incumbent local exchange carriers in Ontario and Quebec*, Telecom Decision CRTC 2006-31, 19 May 2006

- *Revised regulatory framework for the small incumbent local exchange carriers*, Telecom Decision CRTC 2006-14, 29 March 2006
- *Regulatory framework for the small incumbent telephone companies*, Telecom Decision CRTC 2001-756, 14 December 2001

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