

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Inter-Department Communication

DATE: October 23, 2012

AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

FROM: Michael Ladam, Asst Director - Telecommunications 

SUBJECT: DT 12-193 Northern New England Telephone Operations LLC
d/b/a/FairPoint Communications – Lifeline Tariff Revisions

TO: Commissioners
Debra Howland, Executive Director

On July 3, 2012, Northern New England Telephone Operations LLC d/b/a/FairPoint Communications – NNE (FairPoint) filed a revision to its NHPUC Tariff No. 1, to take effect on August 1, 2012. This tariff revises the discount which FairPoint will apply to customers enrolled in the federally-authorized Lifeline program

Staff identified an inconsistency between the rate filed therein and FairPoint's recently-revised end-user common line charge. On July 30, 2012, the Commission extended the effective date of the tariff to September 1, 2012, to provide FairPoint an opportunity to correct the error.

FairPoint has not subsequently revised this tariff. On August 10, 2012, a new law took effect deregulating many aspects of retail telephone service. In particular, RSA 378:1-a now exempts end-user services from tariff filing requirements, and instead requires excepted local exchange carriers (ELECs) such as FairPoint to post rates, terms, and conditions of such services on their own web sites. RSA 374:22-p, VIII(c) further requires incumbent local exchange carriers operating as ELECs to "report the rates for basic service to the commission... upon any changes to the rates."

Staff has concluded that as a result of these changes FairPoint is no longer required to file a tariff revision reflecting Lifeline rate revisions, and this docket can be closed. FairPoint is required to notify the Commission of any changes to basic service rates, and Staff will update our records upon receipt of such notification.