



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Consultation on BTCs Retail Charging Proposals for Calls to Local Directory Enquiry Services

Market Update by URCA – 21 September 2011

URCA today published a consultation paper (ECS 18/2011) on the Bahamas Telecommunications Company Ltd.'s (BTC) application to levy a charge of 35 cents per call to local directory enquiry (DQ) services (i.e., 916).

The main purpose of the consultation is to:

- outline BTC's charging proposal with respect to calls to local directory enquiry services;
- highlight relevant issues; and
- set out URCA's preliminary views on and proposed modifications to the application.

URCA is minded to approve the application, subject to the requirements that BTC provide:

- each fixed line customer (residential/business) with three (3) free calls to DQ per month. That is, fixed-line customers would only start paying for the service after the third call in any particular month; and
- calls from public payphones to directory enquiry services would be free of any retail charge.

BTC submitted the application in response to a regulatory measure (ECS 01/2011) issued by URCA on 11 January 2011 requiring the Significant Market Power (SMP) operator to submit retail charging proposals for calls to directory enquiry services (DQ) and automated ancillary services (i.e., calls to weather and time of day/temperature services), thereby ensuring fair competition between operators. URCA previously approved (30 August 2011) BTC's application to levy a rate of zero as the retail charge for calls to automated ancillary services and a rate of zero as the charge for the equivalent wholesale services.

URCA invites and welcomes comments from interested third parties on URCA's intent relative to BTC's application. Responses to the consultation are due no later than 24 October 2011.

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