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URCA Reviews Retail Pricing Rules

On November 4, 2013 the Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA) published for public consultation a “Proposed Review and Revisions to the Regulation of Retail Prices for SMP Operators – Rules” [URCA document reference ECS 16/2013]. The document revises the retail pricing framework released in April 2010 [URCA document reference ECS 15/2010].

As per the intent of that initial 2010 release, URCA and the industry have been able to assess how the Rules have functioned since being implemented. This consultation therefore seeks to:

- Address concerns raised by the Bahamas Telecommunication Company Limited (BTC) and Cable Bahamas Limited (CBL) on how the Rules function.
- Provide clarity and further guidance to the industry on key requirements of the Rules.
- Further the interests of persons of The Bahamas in relation to the electronic communications sector (ECS).
- Ensure that the Rules process and requirements continue to remain compliant with the Communications Act.

Services subject to the existing retail pricing rules includes for BTC, several telephony services:

Fixed Voice Retail:

- Fixed telephony access and local calling
- Domestic long distance (DLD) fixed calling
- Domestic calls to rated numbers
- Outgoing international long distance (ILD) fixed calling

Mobile Voice Retail:

- Mobile access
- Local mobile calling
- Domestic long distance (DLD) mobile calling
- International long distance (ILD) mobile calling

Mobile Data Retail:

- Mobile data (e.g., mobile internet, SMS, MMS)

And for CBL, Pay TV Retail – SuperBasic (RevTV Prime)

The consultation examines the issues and concerns expressed by operators, provides URCA’s responses to these concerns and sets out URCA’s proposed changes and improvements. The document is available on URCA’s website, www.urcabahamas.bs. Responses to the consultation should be received no later than December 6, 2013.

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