



May 21, 2021

Public Utility Commission of Oregon
201 High Street, SE, Suite 100
Salem, Oregon 97301-3398

RE: Advice No. OR 21-01A for CenturyTel of Oregon, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink, OR PUC AC4 Tariff

Dear Commissioners:

Attached for electronic filing are revisions to the CenturyTel of Oregon, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink, OR PUC AC4 Access Services Tariff. These revisions are being submitted with a proposed effective date of July 1, 2021.

This filing proposes the first step in implementing the 8YY Access Service reductions mandated in the Federal Communications Commission's October 9, 2020 Report and Order in WC Docket No. 18-156, (FCC 20-143), (8YY Access Charge Reform). Beginning July 1, 2021 each Price Cap Carrier shall:

1. Establish separate rate elements for interstate and intrastate toll free originating end office access service and non-toll free originating end office access service.
2. Reduce its intrastate toll free originating end office access service rates to its interstate toll free originating end office service rates.
3. Establish separate rate elements for interstate and intrastate non-toll free originating transport services for service between an end office switch and the tandem switch and remove its rate for intrastate and interstate originating toll free transport services consistent with a bill-and-keep methodology.
4. Establish separate rate elements respectively for interstate and intrastate non-toll free originating tandem switching services.
5. Establish transitional interstate and intrastate Joint Tandem Switched Transport Access Service rate elements for Toll Free Calls that are respectively no more than \$0.01 per minute.
6. Reduce its interstate and intrastate rates for Toll Free Database Query Charges to no more than \$0.004248 per query.

The list of tariff sheets reflecting the proposed revisions are provided in Attachment A following. Also provided as Attachment B are the proposed 8YY Access Charge Reform tariff pages for CenturyLink Operating Companies F.C.C. Tariff No. 8 for your reference.

If you have any questions regarding this filing, please contact me at (913) 884-1131.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robyn Crichton".

Robyn Crichton

cc: Mr. Peter Gose, CenturyLink

OR 2021-12

ROBYN CRICHTON
Government Operations Manager
robyn.m.crichton@centurylink.com
voice: (913) 884-1131

Attachment A

The following tariff sheets are being revised:

14th Revised Page 1
6th Revised Page 1.1
10th Revised Page 1.2
4th Revised Page 1.3
4th Revised Page 1.4
2nd Revised Page 1.5
2nd Revised Page 6
4th Revised Page 6.1
2nd Revised Page 71
3rd Revised Page 76
2nd Revised Page 77
3rd Revised Page 101.4
8th Revised Page 183.1
9th Revised Page 185
3rd Revised Page 194

CenturyLink Operating Companies
F.C.C. Tariff No. 8
Proposed Pages

ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)2.6 Definitions (Cont'd)Milliwatt (102 Type) Test Line

The term "Milliwatt (102 Type) Test Line" denotes an arrangement in an end office which provides a 1004 Hz tone at 0 dBm0 for one-way transmission measurements towards the customer's premises from the Company end office.

Network Control Signaling

The term "Network Control Signaling" denotes the transmission of signals used in the telecommunications system which perform functions such as supervision (control, status, and charge signals), address signaling (e.g., dialing), calling and called number identifications, rate of flow, service selection error control and audible tone signals (call progress signals indicating re-order or busy conditions, alerting, coin denominations, coin collect and coin return tones) to control the operation of the telecommunications system.

Non-Competitive Serving Wire Center

A Company Serving Wire Center that has not met the Competitive Market Test as established by the FCC's BDS Order (17-43) on April 28, 2017 at §69.803.

Nonsynchronous Test Line

The term "Nonsynchronous Test Line" denotes an arrangement in step- by-step end offices which provides operational tests which are not as complete as those provided by the synchronous test lines, but can be made more rapidly.

Non-Toll Free

All calls that are not toll free (8YY) as established by the FCC's 8YY Access Charge Reform Order (FCC 20-143) released on October 9, 2020.

North American Numbering Plan

The term "North American Numbering Plan" denotes a three-digit area code (Numbering Plan Area - NPA) and a seven-digit telephone number made up of a three-digit Central Office prefix plus a four-digit station number.

Off-hook

The term "Off-hook" denotes the active condition of Switched Access Service or a Telephone Exchange Service line.

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ACCESS SERVICE

2. General Regulations (Cont'd)2.6 Definitions (Cont'd)Terminating Direction

The term "Terminating Direction" denotes the use of Access Service for the completion of calls from an IC premises to an End User Premises.

Terminus Hub

The term "Terminus Hub" denotes a wire center at which bridging or multiplexing functions are performed only for Customers served directly by the same wire center.

Throughput

The term "Throughput" denotes the number of data bits successfully transferred in one direction per unit of time.

Toll Free Code (TFC)

The term "Toll Free Code" denotes a three-digit Numbering Plan Area (NPA) or Area Code that is specifically assigned by the telecommunications industry for use by Telecommunications Service Providers in the provision of telephone numbers that, unlike traditional telephone numbers and calls, when dialed are toll free to the originating caller. The specific codes assigned and used, or reserved for use, for this purpose are 800, 822, 833, 844, 855, 866, 877, and 888.

Toll VoIP-PSTN Traffic

The term "Toll VoIP-PSTN Traffic" denotes a customer's interexchange voice traffic exchanged with the Telephone Company in Time Division Multiplexing format over PSTN facilities, which originates and/or terminates in Internet Protocol (IP) format. "Toll VoIP-PSTN Traffic" originates and/or terminates in IP format when it originates from and/or terminates to an end user customer of a service that requires IP-compatible customer premises equipment.

Transmission Measuring (105 Type) Test Line/Responder

The term "Transmission Measuring (105 Type) Test Line/ Responder" denotes an arrangement in an end office which provides far-end access to a responder and permits two-way loss and noise measurements to be made on trunks from a near end office.

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ACCESS SERVICE

6. Switched Access Service (Cont'd)6.1 General (Cont'd)6.1.3 Rate Categories (Cont'd)(A) Local Transport (Cont'd)(3) Tandem Switched Transport

The Tandem Switched Transport rate elements recover tandem switching costs and a portion of the costs associated with the communications path between a tandem and an end office on circuits that are switched at a tandem switch, or between a host and a remote switch. For examples of tandem Switched Transport see Section 2.4.7 preceding

Effective July 1, 2021, as established in the 8YY Access Charge Reform (FCC 20-143), existing tandem switching charges and transport charges for originating 8YY traffic are eliminated and a single joint tandem switched access service rate element for 8YY originating access service is established. The 8YY originating Joint Tandem Switched Transport rate is provided at the rates set forth in Section 17.4.2(A)(3).

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Tandem Switched Transport rates consist of a Tandem Switching rate, a Tandem Switched Facility rate, a Tandem Switched Termination rate, Dedicated Trunk Port Rates and Common/Shared Multiplexing. The Tandem Switching rate is applicable at the Tandem when a customer orders Direct Trunk Transport to the tandem and Tandem Switched Transport from the tandem to the end office.

In those instances where an SSP equipped end office is capable of handling **TFC** traffic on a direct trunked basis but incapable of handling TFC traffic on a direct trunked basis, a full credit will be provided for tandem switched transport charges associated with FGC and FGD service for 888 traffic delivered at the tandem. This results in all TFC series traffic being rated as direct trunked transport regardless of whether the SSP equipped end office is capable of handling TFC traffic on a direct trunked basis. Those SSP equipped end offices that cannot accommodate direct trunking of originating TFC traffic are identified in National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc. Tariff F.C.C. No. 4, Wire Center Information.

- (a) The Tandem Switching rate recovers a portion of the costs of switching traffic through an access tandem. The Tandem Switching rate specified in Section 17 following is applied on a per access minute per tandem basis for all originating and all terminating minutes of use switched at the tandem. Tandem locations are identified in National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc. Tariff F.C.C. No. 4, Wire Center Information.
- (b) The Tandem Switched Facility rate recovers a portion of the costs of transmission facilities, including intermediate transmission circuit equipment, between the end points of interoffice circuits. The Tandem Switched Facility rate specified in Section 17 following is applied on a per access minute per mile basis for all originating and terminating minutes of use routed over the facility.

CENTURYLINK OPERATING COMPANIES

TARIFF F.C.C. NO. 8
7th Revised Page 17-5
Cancels 6th Revised Page 17-5

ACCESS SERVICE

17. Rates and Charges (Cont'd)17.4 Switched Access Service17.4.2 Local Transport (Cont'd)

(A) <u>Premium Access</u> (Cont'd)	<u>Monthly Rate</u>	<u>Tariff Reference</u>	
(3) <u>Tandem Switched Transport</u> <u>Tandem Switched Facility</u>		6.1.3(A)(3)	
- Per Access Minute Per Mile			
Originating– Non-Toll Free *	\$0.000012		(T)
Terminating 3 rd Party	\$0.000012		
Terminating End Office	\$0.000000		
<u>Tandem Switched Termination</u>			
- Per Access Minute Per Termination			
Originating– Non-Toll Free *	\$0.000011		(T)
Terminating 3 rd Party	\$0.000011		
Terminating End Office	\$0.000000		
<u>Tandem Switching</u>			
- Per Access Minute Per Tandem			
Originating– Non-Toll Free *	\$0.006756		(T)
Terminating 3 rd Party	\$0.006756		
Terminating End Office	\$0.000000		
- <u>8YY Joint Tandem Switched Transport</u>			(N)
Per Access Minute			(N)
Originating – Toll Free *	\$0.001		(N)
(4) <u>Common/Shared Multiplexing DS3 – DS1</u>			(M)
Per Access Minute			
Originating– Non-Toll Free *	\$0.000009		
Terminating 3 rd Party	\$0.000009		
Terminating End Office	\$0.000000		(M)
(5) <u>Multiplexing</u>		6.1.3(A)(5)	
Per Arrangement			
DS3 to DS1	\$226.25		
DS1 to Voice	\$176.00		
DS1 to DS0	\$176.00		(M1)

* **Effective July 1, 2021, pursuant to FCC 20-143, separate rate elements for Toll Free and Non-Toll Free originating transport services were established.**

(M) – Material moved from Page 17-7.

(M1) – Material moved to Page 17-6.

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17. Rates and Charges (Cont'd)17.4 Switched Access Service17.4.2 Local Transport (Cont'd)

	<u>Monthly Rate</u>	<u>Tariff Reference</u>	
(B) <u>Reserved for Future Use</u>			(M)
(C) <u>Network Blocking</u> (Applies to FGD only) * - Per Blocked Call	\$0.0038	6.8.6	(M)
(D) <u>Common Channel Signaling Network Connection</u>			
(1) <u>Signaling Network Access Link</u>		6.10.3	
<u>Signaling Mileage Facility</u>			
Per Mile			
DS0	\$0.05		
DS1	\$2.00		
<u>Signaling Mileage Termination</u>			
Per Termination			
DS0	\$0.80		
DS1	\$3.50		
<u>Signaling Entrance Facility</u>			
Per Facility			
DS0	\$14.75		
DS1	\$70.00		
Per Mile, Over 3 Miles			
DS1	N/A		
(2) <u>STP Port</u>			
Per Port	\$605.07		
(E) <u>TFC Data Base Access Service Queries</u>		6.10.3	
Per Query			
Basic	\$0.004248		(R)
Vertical Feature	\$0.000000		(R)

* This flat rated charge was calculated based upon a 50/50 split between originating and terminating. The FCC in their FCC 11-161 ICC Transformation Order in Section 51.907(d)(1) allowed Price Cap Carriers to use an equal split to divide the charge between originating and terminating elements. When the terminating portion of the rate is reduced and then combined with the originating portion of the rate, a single flat rate is generated for billing purposes.

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17. Rates and Charges (Cont'd)

17.4 Switched Access Service

17.4.2 Local Transport (Cont'd)

(F) Dedicated Trunk Port

	<u>Access Tandem</u> <u>Dedicated Trunk Port</u> <u>Voiceband</u> <u>Monthly Rate, Per Channel</u>	<u>Access Tandem</u> <u>Dedicated Trunk Port</u> <u>DS1</u> <u>Monthly Rate, Per Channel</u>
Each	\$16.77	\$7.89

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17. Rates and Charges (Cont'd)17.4 Switched Access Service (Cont'd)17.4.3 End Office

Monthly	Tariff Rate	Reference
(A) <u>Local Switching (LS1 and LS2)</u>		6.1.3(B)(1)
	<u>Per Access Minute</u>	
Originating – Toll Free	\$0.005011	(C)
Originating – Non-Toll Free	\$0.005011	(C)
Terminating	\$0.000000	
(B) <u>Reserved for Future Use</u>		
(C) <u>Shared Trunk Port</u>	<u>Per Access Minute</u>	
Each		
Originating – Toll Free	\$0.001997	(C)
Originating – Non-Toll Free	\$0.001997	(C)
Terminating	\$0.000000	
(D) <u>Dedicated Trunk Port</u>	<u>Per Month *</u>	
DS1 Port, per channel	\$0.06	
Voice Grade Port, per channel	\$1.24	

- * The End Office Dedicated Trunk Port rate was calculated based upon a 50/50 split between originating and terminating traffic using this flat-rated port. The FCC in their FCC 11-161 ICC Transformation order in section 51.907(d)(1) allowed Price Cap Carriers to use an equal split to divide the charge between originating and terminating elements. The terminating portion of the rate was reduced and then combined with the originating portion of the rate for a single flat rate. The Originating portion of the Voice Grade charge is \$1.24 and the Originating portion of the DS1 charges is \$0.06.

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Oregon P.U.C. AC4
CENTURYTEL OF OREGON, INC.
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	78	Virtual Interconnection Equipment
	78	Wire Center

(N)

2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.6 **DEFINITIONS** (Cont'd)

Message

The term "Message" denotes a "call" as defined preceding.

Milliwatt (102 Type) Test Line

The term "Milliwatt" (102 Type) Test Line" denotes an arrangement in an end office which provides a 1004 Hz tone at 0 dBm0 for one-way transmission measurements towards the customer's premises from the Telephone Company end office.

Network Control Signaling

The term "Network Control Signaling" denotes the transmission of signals used in the telecommunications system which perform functions such as supervision (control, status, and charge signals), address signaling (e.g., dialing), calling and called number identifications rate of flow, service selection error control and audible tone signals (call progress signals indicating re-order or busy conditions, alerting, coin denominations, coin collect and coin return tones) to control the operation of the telecommunications system.

Nonsynchronous Test Line

The term "Nonsynchronous Test Line" denotes an arrangement in step-by-step end offices which provides operational tests which are not as complete as those provided by the synchronous test lines, but can be made more rapidly.

Non-Toll Free

All calls that are not toll free (8YY) as established by the FCC's 8YY Access Charge Reform Order (FCC 20-143) released on October 9, 2020.

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2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.6 **DEFINITIONS** (Cont'd)

Synchronous Test Line

An arrangement in an end office which performs marginal operational tests of supervisory and ring-tripping functions.

Tandem Switched Transport

The term "Tandem Switched Transport" denotes transport from the tandem to the end office, that is switched at a tandem.

Terminating Direction

The use of Access Service for the completion of calls from an IC Premises to an End User Premises.

Throughput

The number of data bits successfully transferred in one direction per unit of time.

Toll Free Code (TFC)

The term "Toll Free Code" denotes a three-digit Numbering Plan Area (NPA) or Area Code that is specifically assigned by the telecommunications industry for use by Telecommunications Service Providers in the provision of telephone numbers that, unlike traditional telephone numbers and calls, when dialed are toll free to the originating caller. The specific codes assigned and used, or reserved for use, for this purpose are 800, 822, 833, 844, 855, 866, 877, and 888.

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Toll VoIP-PSTN Traffic

The term "Toll VoIP-PSTN Traffic" denotes a customer's interexchange voice traffic exchanged with the Telephone Company in Time Division Multiplexing format over PSTN facilities, which originates and/or terminates in Internet Protocol (IP) format. "Toll VoIP-PSTN Traffic" originates and/or terminates in IP format when it originates from and/or terminates to an end user customer of a service that requires IP-compatible customer premises equipment.

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(M) Material moved from 2nd Revised Page 77 of this section.

2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.6 DEFINITIONS (Cont'd)

Transmission Measuring (105 Type) Test Line/Responder

An arrangement in an end office which provides far-end access to a responder and permits two-way loss and noise measurements to be made on trunks from a near end office.

Transmission Path

An electrical path capable of transmitting signals within the range of the service offering, e.g., a voice grade transmission path is capable of transmitting voice frequencies within the approximate range of 300 to 3000 Hz. A transmission path comprises physical or derived facilities consisting of any form or configuration of plant typically used in the telecommunications industry.

Trunk

The term "Trunk" denotes a communications path connecting two switching systems in a network, used in the establishment of an end-to-end connection.

Trunk Group

The term "Trunk Group" denotes a set of trunks which are traffic engineered as a unit for the establishment of connections between switching systems in which all of the communications paths are interchangeable.

Trunk-Side Connection

The term "Trunk Side Connection" denotes the connection of a transmission path to the trunk side of a local exchange switching system.

Two-Wire to Four-Wire Conversion

The term "Two-Wire to Four-Wire Conversion" denotes an arrangement which converts a four-wire transmission path to a two-wire transmission path to allow a four-wire facility to terminate in a two-wire entity (e.g., a central office switch).

Underground Utility Vault

Denotes an underground enclosure where conduit(s) are terminated, and which provides ready access to conduit system.

(M) Material moved from 2nd Revised Page 76 of this section.

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6. SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE

6.1 GENERAL (CONT'D)

6.1.3 RATE CATEGORIES (CONT'D)

A. Local Transport (Cont'd)

3. Tandem Switched Transport

The Tandem Switched Transport rate elements recover tandem switching costs and a portion of the costs associated with the communications path between a tandem and an end office on circuits that are switched at a tandem switch, or between a host and a remote switch. For examples of tandem Switched Transport see Section 2.4.8 preceding.

Effective July 1, 2021, as established in the 8YY Access Charge Reform (FCC 20-143), existing tandem switching charges and transport charges for originating 8YY traffic are eliminated and a single joint tandem switched access service rate element for 8YY originating access service is established. The 8YY originating Joint Tandem Switched Transport rate is provided at the rates set forth in Section 17.4.2(A)(3).

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Tandem Switched Transport rates consist of a Tandem Switching rate, a Tandem Switched Facility rate, a Tandem Switched Termination rate, Dedicated Trunk Port Rates and Common/Shared Multiplexing. The Tandem Switching rate is applicable at the Tandem, when a customer orders Direct Trunk Transport to the tandem and Tandem Switched Transport from the tandem to the end office.

In those instances where an SSP equipped end office is capable of handling 800 traffic on a direct trunked basis but incapable of handling 888 traffic on a direct trunked basis, a full credit will be provided for tandem switched transport charges associated with FGC and FGD service for 888 traffic delivered at the tandem. This results in all 800 series traffic being rated as direct trunked transport regardless of whether the SSP equipped end office is capable of handling 888 traffic on a direct trunked basis. Those SSP equipped end offices that cannot accommodate direct trunking of originating 888 traffic are identified in National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc. Tariff F.C.C. No. 4, Wire Center Information.

- a. The Tandem Switching rate recovers a portion of the costs of switching traffic through an access tandem. The Tandem Switching rate specified in Section 6.8.2.A.3. following is applied on a per access minute per tandem basis for all originating and all terminating minutes of use switched at the tandem. Tandem locations are identified in National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc. Tariff F.C.C. No. 4, Wire Center Information.

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6. SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE

6.8 RATES AND CHARGES

6.8.2 LOCAL TRANSPORT

A. Premium Access (Cont'd)

	<u>MONTHLY RATE</u>	
3. <u>Tandem Switched Transport</u>		(M)
<u>Tandem Switched Facility</u>		
- Per Access Minute Per Mile		
Originating– Non-Toll Free *	\$0.000012	(T)
Terminating 3rd Party	\$0.000012	
Terminating End Office	\$0.000000	
<u>Tandem Switched Termination</u>		
- Per Access Minute Per Termination		
Originating– Non-Toll Free *	\$0.000011	(T)
Terminating 3rd Party	\$0.000011	
Terminating End Office	\$0.000000	
<u>Tandem Switching</u>		
- Per Access Minute		
Originating– Non-Toll Free *	\$0.006756	(T)
Terminating 3rd Party	\$0.006756	
Terminating End Office	\$0.000000	
<u>Shared Multiplexing DS3-DS1</u>		
- Per Access Minute		
Originating– Non-Toll Free *	\$0.000009	(T)
Terminating 3rd Party	\$0.000009	
Terminating End Office	\$0.000000	
<u>8YY Joint Tandem Switched Transport</u>		
- Per Access Minute		(N)
Originating– Non-Toll Free *	\$0.001	(N)
4. <u>Interconnection Charge</u>		
- Per Access Minute		
Originating– Non-Toll Free *	\$0.013501	(T)
Terminating	\$0.000000	
5. <u>Multiplexing</u>		
- Per Arrangement		
DS3 to DS1	\$226.25	
DS1 to Voice	\$176.00	
DS1 to DS0	\$176.00	(M)

* **Effective July 1, 2021, pursuant to FCC 20-143, separate rate elements for Toll Free and Non-Toll Free originating transport services were established.** (N)
(N)

(M) Material moved within the page.

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By: Chantel Bosworth, Director

OR2021-12

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ACCESS SERVICE TARIFF

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6. SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE

6.8 RATES AND CHARGES (Cont'd)

6.8.3 END OFFICE

A. Local Switching

1. Premium

a. Local Switching 1:

Feature Groups A & B (except: (1) Feature Group B utilized for the provision of MTS/WATS service and (2) Feature Groups A and B when utilized for the provision of terminating inward WATS and WATS - type services at an equal access WATS Serving Office.

b. Local Switching 2:

Feature Groups C & D (including: (1) Feature Group B when utilized for the provision of MTS/WATS service and (2) Feature Groups A and B when utilized for the provision of terminating inward WATS and WATS - type services at an equal access WATS Serving Office.

c. Local Switching (LS1 and LS2) Rates

- Per Access Minute

Originating–**Toll Free**
Originating– **Non-Toll Free**
Terminating

MONTHLY RATE

\$0.005011 (R)
\$0.012310
\$0.000000

(M)(T)

(C)

(C)

(M)(T)

2. **Reserved for Future Use**

(D)

(D)

3. Shared Trunk Port

- Per Access Minute

Originating–**Toll Free**
Originating– **Non-Toll Free**
Terminating

MONTHLY RATE

\$0.001997
\$0.001997
\$0.000000

(M)(T)

(C)

(C)

(M)(T)

(M) Material moved within the page.

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6. SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE

6.8 RATES AND CHARGES (Cont'd)

6.8.4 800 ACCESS SERVICE DATA BASE QUERY

	<u>RATE</u>	
Basic Query Charge	\$0.004248	(R)
Enhanced Query Charge	\$0.000000	(R)

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