



businesses and other institutions using 8YY numbers to provide customer service, heighten brand awareness, and track the effectiveness of individual advertising campaigns. The increased demand for these 8YY numbers resulted in the FCC authorizing additional toll free codes beyond the original 800 code, including the 888, 877, 866, 855, 844, and 833 codes. However, arbitrage and fraudulent calling schemes, such as unnecessary multiple database queries or improper steering of traffic where higher rates are assessed have been raising costs for 8YY providers and increasingly undermining the system of intercarrier compensation.

The rules adopted by the FCC under the 8YY Reform Order aimed to curtail the abuse of 8YY intercarrier compensation regimes and preserve the value of toll free services. Under the rules, the FCC: 1) instituted a cap on all originating 8YY end office, tandem switching and transport, and database query charges at their current rates as of the effective date of the 8YY Access Order; 2) reduced originating 8YY end office charges to bill-and-keep over a three year period, beginning July 1, 2021 and ending July 1, 2023; 3) adopted a single uniform nationwide rate cap of \$0.001 per minute for originating 8YY tandem switching and transport access charges as of July 1, 2021; 4) reduced database query charges to a cap of \$0.0002 per query over a three year period, ending July 1, 2023, and 5) prohibited carriers from charging for more than one database query per call.<sup>3</sup>

### **DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS**

The Board has reviewed Verizon's June 1, 2022 letter filing and supporting documents revising its Switched Access Services tariff consistent with the requirements of the 8YY Reform Order requiring carriers to reduce its interstate and intrastate rates for all originating End Office Access Service and rate elements for Toll Free calls in each state and Toll Free Database Query Charges in which it provides such services. The Board **FINDS** that the proposed tariff changes are consistent with the applicable law and in the public interest. Therefore, after investigation, having considered the record and exhibits submitted by Verizon, the Board **HEREBY AUTHORIZES** Petitioner to effectuate the tariff changes.

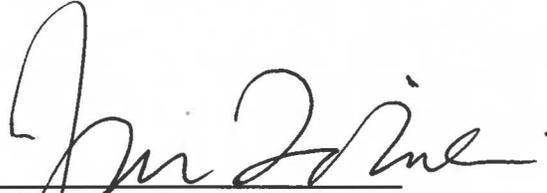
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<sup>3</sup> See 8YY Reform Order, ¶ 25.

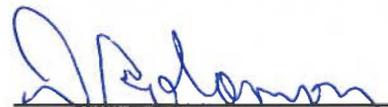
This Order shall be effective August 24, 2022.

DATED: August 17, 2022

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES  
BY:

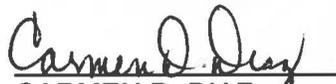
  
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JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO  
PRESIDENT

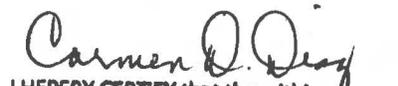
  
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MARY-ANNA HOLDEN  
COMMISSIONER

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DIANNE SOLOMON  
COMMISSIONER

  
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ROBERT M. GORDON  
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

  
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CARMEN D. DIAZ  
ACTING SECRETARY

  
I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within  
document is a true copy of the original  
in the files of the Board of Public Utilities.

IN THE MATTER OF VERIZON NEW JERSEY INC. TARIFF REVISIONS SWITCHED ACCESS  
SERVICES – TARIFF B.P.U.-No. 6  
DOCKET NO. TT22060383

SERVICE LIST

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