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TELEPHONE AND WATER UTILITIES INDUSTRIES DIVISION BULLETIN

Bulletin #: 2023-02

To: All Voice Network Service Providers

From: David Braley
Director, Telephone and Water Utility Industries

Re: **All Voice Network Service Providers Placing Telephone Numbers in Service Must Now Contribute to the State's MUSF and MTEAF Funds**

Date: December 5, 2023

The purpose of this Maine Public Utilities Commission Telephone and Water Utilities Industries Division Bulletin is to provide guidance to all Voice Network Service Providers (VNSPs), utilizing numbering resources in LATA 120 and the 207 Area Code, about state and federal numbering rules and requirements.

This Bulletin highlights:

- MUSF and MTEAF Obligations
- Contributions to the MUSF and MTEAF
- Third-Party Administrator for MUSF and MTEAF Funds
- VNSPs Subject to Review and Audit

MUSF and MTEAF Obligations

Effective October 25, 2023, Maine law requires all voice network service providers using numbers placed in service in Maine's numbering plan area (the 207 Area Code) to contribute to the Maine Universal Service Fund (MUSF) and the Maine Telecommunications

Education Access Fund (MTEAF)¹.

[Voice network service provider](#) means a voice service provider that offers its subscribers the means to initiate or receive voice communications using the public switched telephone network and includes a provider of interconnected voice over Internet protocol service required to register with the commission pursuant to section [Title 35-A §7110](#), subsection 2².

Contributions to the MUSF and MTEAF

Contributions to these funds are based on the requirements of [Title 35-A MRS §7104](#) (MUSF Statute) and [Title 35-A MRS §7104-B](#) (MTEAF Statute). These statutes detail the funding mechanisms for the services and programs, which are based on telephone numbers placed in service.

"Number placed in service" means an active 10-digit telephone number that is:

1. Compliant with the guidelines established by the North American Numbering Plan Administrator for use by a voice network service provider;
2. Has been assigned to an end user customer of the voice network service provider; and
3. Is capable of receiving voice traffic from, or originating voice traffic to, the public switched telephone network.

Example Scenario: If a VNSP puts into service 750 numbers, then it is required to contribute the following:

State Fund	Numbers in Service	Contribution Per Line	Monthly Obligation
MUSF	750	\$0.44	\$330
MTEAF	750	\$0.21	\$157.50

Additional guidance regarding the MUSF and MTEAF may be found in the Commission's Rules:

- [Chapter 288 - MUSF](#)
- [Chapter 285 - MTEAF](#)

The Commission utilizes a third-party administrator to manage the MUSF and MTEAF funds.

¹ The MUSF supports universal service and reasonable rates as well as Maine's Telecommunications Relay Services, Communications Equipment Fund, Blind and Visually Impaired News Access Fund, and the Public Interest Payphone program. The MTEAF primarily supports telecommunications services for Maine's school and Library Network.

² A VNSP includes entities such as Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers, Competitive Local Exchange Carriers, Mobile Wireless Carriers, and Interconnected Voice Over Internet Protocol service providers.

Third-Party Administrator for MUSF and MTEAF Funds

The Commission's third-party administrator for the MUSF and MTEAF Funds is Solix, Inc. Their website is: www.solixinc.com.

All VNSPs doing business in Maine must register with Solix to report the number of lines in service and remittance. VNSPs must remit their required contribution to the Fund Administrator under procedures established by the Fund Administrator.

If your VNSP has not previously registered, please contact:

Michael Tamburino
Direct Dial No.: (973) 581-6714
Email: Michael.TAMBURINO@solixinc.com

VNSPs Subject to Review and Audit

Some VNSPs have not registered with Solix. The Commission is advising VNSPs who have not registered with Solix to report their lines in service in accordance with Maine law.

Commission Staff use the North American Numbering Administrator's biannual NRUF report to determine whether VNSPs are contributing to the MUSF and MTEAF funds.

The Commission may open an investigation and request an audit of a VNSP's numbering resources pursuant to [47 C.F.R. § 52.15\(k\) for any VNSP not in compliance with State law](#).