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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Guidelines for Calculating the Net Cost of the Universal Service Obligations

The Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA) hereby publishes the following documents regarding the calculation of the net cost of the universal service obligations (USO):

- **Guidelines for Calculating the Net Cost of the Universal Service Obligations for The Bahamas Telecommunications Company Limited- Statement of Results and Final Decision (ECS 09/2015)**
- **Guidelines for Calculating the Net Cost of the Universal Service Obligations for The Bahamas Telecommunications Company Limited (ECS 10/2015)**

These documents are being issued pursuant to section 119(1) and Schedule 5 of the Communications Act, 2009 (Comms Act). Both documents form part of the consultative process regarding how The Bahamas Telecommunications Company Limited (BTC) is to calculate the net cost of the universal service obligations as contemplated in section 44(3) of the Comms Act. The consultation for this subject was first launched in August 2014, with the publication of URCA's consultation document "Guidelines for Calculating The Net Cost Of The Universal Service Obligations For The Bahamas Telecommunications Company" (ECS 15/2014). Comments were duly forwarded by both BTC and Cable Bahamas Limited (CBL) on behalf of itself and its affiliates Caribbean Crossings Ltd. and Systems Resource Group Ltd.

The Statement of Results and Final Decision (ECS 09/2015) provides a summary of the comments that were received from BTC and CBL to ECS 15/2014 along with URCA's responses to those comments and its final decisions. The Guidelines (ECS 10/2015) set forth an indicative method for the calculation of the net cost of the USO.

The consultative process is now closed.

Interested parties are invited to view both documents which can be found on the URCA website at www.urbahamas.bs.

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