

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

APPLICATION OF BALLARD RURAL	)	
TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE CORPORATION,	)	CASE NO.
INC. FOR A GENERAL ADJUSTMENT IN	)	2016-00042
RATES	)	

ORDER

On March 3, 2016, Ballard Rural Telephone Cooperative Corporation, Inc. (“Ballard Telephone”) filed a motion for waiver of certain rate application filing requirements contemporaneously with tendering its application requesting authorization to adjust its rates and charges for basic local exchange service.

In its motion, Ballard Telephone requested a waiver from the following filing requirements and subparts of 807 KAR 5:001:

- Section 16(4)(b), which requires the filing of prepared testimony of each witness who will support the application.

Ballard Telephone requested a waiver from this requirement because a detailed narrative explanation of the proposed rate adjustment, which complies with a Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) order and is not driven by a financial need, was submitted as Exhibit 1 of the application, and thus does not require further explanation through prepared testimony.

- Section 16(4)(h), which requires a summary of determination of revenue requirements based on return on net investment rate base, return on capitalization, interest coverage, debt service coverage, or operating ratio, with supporting schedules.

Ballard Telephone requested a waiver from this requirement to the extent that it must provide information in addition to the 2014 Rural Utilities Service (“RUS”) operating report submitted with the application as Exhibit 5, which contains financial information regarding Ballard Telephone’s revenue position compared to its required operating revenues. Ballard Telephone argues that the proposed rate adjustment will be offset by revenue reductions imposed by the FCC’s reduction of access revenues from intercarrier compensation, and thus, no or nominal additional revenue is expected from the proposed rate adjustment.

- Section 16(4)(i), which requires the reconciliation of rate base and capital used to determine revenue requirements.

Ballard Telephone requested a waiver from this requirement because the proposed rate adjustment is based on a rate floor set by the FCC, not on rate base and capital.

- Section 16(4)(n), which requires the summary of the latest depreciation study with a schedule identifying current and test-period depreciation rates used by major plant accounts.

Ballard Telephone requested a waiver from this requirement because its current and test-period depreciation rates used by major plant accounts are on file with the Commission as Exhibit 7 to Ballard Telephone’s application in Case No. 2014-00330.<sup>1</sup> Ballard Telephone states that the rates are the Commission’s average depreciation rates, and they have not changed. Ballard Telephone further states that since the

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<sup>1</sup> Case No. 2014-00330, Application of Ballard Rural Telephone Cooperative Corporation, Inc. for a General Adjustment in Rates (filed Oct. 23, 2014), Application, Exhibit 7.

proposed rate adjustment is based on a rate floor set by the FCC, it has provided sufficient information to allow the Commission to efficiently evaluate the application.

- Section 16(4)(q), which requires the annual report to shareholders, or members, and statistical supplements covering the two most recent years from the utility's application filing date.

Ballard Telephone requested a waiver from this requirement to the extent that it must provide information in addition to the independent auditor's opinion letter it submitted with its application as Exhibit 6 and its audited financial statement for the years ended June 30, 2014, and June 30, 2015, that it submitted with its application as Exhibit 7.

- Section 16(4)(r), which requires the monthly managerial reports providing financial results of operations for the 12 months in the test period.

Ballard Telephone requested a waiver from this requirement because its annual financial report for 2014, which covers the test period, is on file with the Commission.

- Section 16(5), which allows, upon good cause shown, a utility to request pro forma adjustments for known and measurable changes to ensure fair, just, and reasonable rates based on the historical test period, and which requires any such adjustments to be supported by specific financial and statistical information.

Ballard Telephone requested a waiver from this requirement because its application does not include any pro forma adjustments.

Based on a review of Ballard Telephone's motion and rate application, the Commission finds that:

1. Ballard Telephone's application has been filed to comply with an FCC mandate which specifies a rate floor for basic exchange service.

2. Based on the FCC rate mandate, Ballard Telephone has shown good cause to permit it to deviate from the filing requirements of 807 KAR 5:001, Sections 16(4)(b), 16(4)(h), 16(4)(i), 16(4)(n), 16(4)(q), 16(4)(r), and 16(5), and its request for a waiver from the filing requirements should be granted.

3. The Commission, on its own motion, finds that Ballard Telephone's 2014 annual financial report on file with the Commission should be incorporated into the record by reference only.

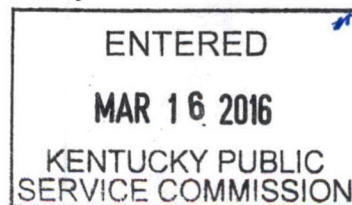
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. Ballard Telephone's request for a deviation from the filing requirements of 807 KAR 5:001, Sections 16(4)(b), 16(4)(h), 16(4)(i), 16(4)(n), 16(4)(q), 16(4)(r), and 16(5), is granted.

2. Ballard Telephone's 2014 annual financial report on file with the Commission is incorporated into the record by reference only.

3. Ballard Telephone's application is deemed filed as of the date of this Order.

By the Commission



ATTEST:

  
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