

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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In the Matter of

THE REQUEST OF MR. JOHNNY M.)
WILLIAMSON, LAGRANGE, KENTUCKY)
AND OTHERS FOR LAGRANGE) CASE NO. 7547
TELEPHONE SERVICE)

O R D E R

On August 9, 1979, the Commission received a letter from Mr. Johnny M. Williamson, LaGrange, Kentucky and an accompanying petition and correspondence concerning his interest and that of others in obtaining LaGrange telephone service from South Central Bell Telephone Company (Bell) rather than service from Eminence, Kentucky.

The Commission, after consideration of this correspondence, set the matter for hearing on September 19, 1979, at 1:30 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time, in the Commission's offices at Frankfort, Kentucky. The hearing was held as scheduled and all parties of interest were given the opportunity to be heard.

At the hearing, Bell presented evidence to the effect that a change in the existing boundary line to accomplish petitioner's request, with all costs included, could be expected to be in excess of \$300,000.00. At the request of the hearing officer, Bell filed cost information on November 2, 1979, which showed costs directly attributable to serving petitioners and those in the immediate area. Two plans were presented; one costing about \$78,021.00 and the other costing \$89,001.00.

The Commission, after considering this matter, including the hearing and all correspondence of record, and being advised, is of the opinion and finds that:

- 1) Telephone boundary lines must be set in order to provide orderly and economic communication system planning, and to prevent costly and chaotic duplication of facilities;
- 2) The evidence in this Case shows that a clearly identifiable boundary line does exist at Petitioners' location, although the record also clearly indicates that Bell has violated this boundary line in several instances, either inadvertently or otherwise, by

providing service to customers outside of the established boundary line;

3) The Record shows that the total costs to accomplish Petitioners' request would be far in excess of the directly attributable costs which were furnished by Bell, and could more nearly be expected to be in the range of the \$300,000.00 which was presented by Bell at the hearing;

4) Petitioners, by letter received November 5, 1979, agreed to pay, over a twenty-year period, for the directly attributable costs of providing their requested service. However, their proposed contribution would not pay the total debt service of these costs, nor would the total costs of providing such service be recovered;

5) Petitioners' request for a change in the boundary line should be denied, since all Bell ratepayers would eventually be forced to pay the major portion of the total costs of such a project, and this would clearly not be in the public interest.

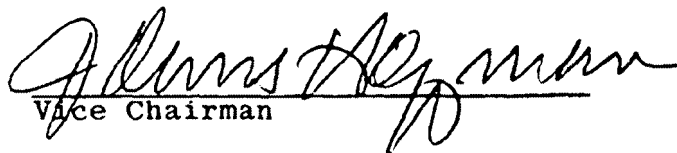
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Petitioners' request for LaGrange telephone service from South Central Bell Telephone Company be and it hereby is denied.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the issue of South Central Bell Telephone Company's violation of the boundary line at Petitioners' location will be addressed by the Commission as a general issue in Administrative Case No. 218, Telephone Utilities Exchange Boundaries.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 19th day of February, 1980.

UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION


Chairman


Vice Chairman

ATTEST:


Commissioner

Secretary