

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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In the Matter of

PETITION OF RESIDENTS OF MCCRACKEN)
COUNTY, KENTUCKY, REQUESTING A)
SURVEY TO DETERMINE THE NEED FOR) CASE NO. 7513
EXTENDED AREA TELEPHONE SERVICE)
BETWEEN MELBER AND PADUCAH, KENTUCKY)

O R D E R

On July 3, 1979, the Commission received a letter from Mr. L. B. Otey, Melber, Kentucky, and an accompanying petition concerning the establishment of extended area telephone service (EAS) between Melber, Kentucky and Paducah, Kentucky. The Folsomdale exchange of West Kentucky RTCC (West Kentucky) serves the community of Melber, with the Lowes exchange of West Kentucky also serving a limited number of McCracken county subscribers. Paducah is served by South Central Bell Telephone Company (Bell).

After considering the letter and petition, and being advised, the Commission on July 18, 1979, ordered that Bell and West Kentucky conduct one month traffic studies with respect to the toll calling patterns between Melber and Paducah, Kentucky. Subsequently, by Order of July 25, 1979, the Order of July 18, 1979, was amended to require the traffic study between the Folsomdale and Lowes exchanges of West Kentucky and the Paducah exchange of Bell. On September 11, 1979, both Bell and West Kentucky filed the results of their traffic studies with the Commission.

After receiving the traffic study results, the Commission by Order dated November 20, 1979, set the matter for hearing on January 9, 1980, at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Standard 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. The Consumer Protection Division of the Attorney General's Office intervened on behalf of consumers. Briefs were filed by the Attorney General's Office and Bell on February 15, 1980, and by West Kentucky on February 19, 1980,

with an addendum on February 28, 1980.

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

1) The toll traffic studies which were conducted show considerable calling activity from Folsomdale to Paducah and from Lowes to Paducah, but only minimal calling activity from Paducah to both Folsomdale and Lowes. In fact, the studies indicate that Paducah subscribers averaged only (0.13) calls per month into the Folsomdale exchange, and only (0.04) calls per month into the Lowes exchange, during the study period;

2) At the public hearing of January 9, 1980, evidence of interest in calling from both Folsomdale and Lowes into Paducah was introduced, but no demonstration of calling interest from Paducah into either Folsomdale or Lowes was shown;

3) Neither Petitioners nor the toll traffic studies have demonstrated a two-way community of interest which must be shown to justify further consideration of this matter, and therefore this matter, inasmuch as it relates to the consideration of EAS between Folsomdale and Paducah, and Lowes and Paducah, should be dismissed;

4) A further hearing should be held in this matter inasmuch as it relates to the possibility of relocating the exchange boundary lines to allow the McCracken County subscribers of the Folsomdale and Lowes Exchanges to be placed onto the Paducah exchange.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Petition for Extended Area Telephone Service (EAS) between Folsomdale and Paducah and between Lowes and Paducah be and it hereby is denied.

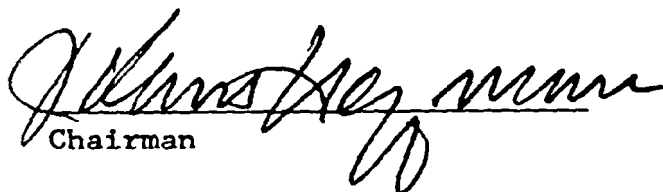
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a public hearing be and it hereby is scheduled for February 18, 1981, at 1:30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, in the Commission's offices at Frankfort, Kentucky, at which time the McCracken County residents of the Folsomdale

and Lowes exchanges may present testimony related to the consideration of relocating the Paducah exchange boundary to the McCracken County line.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that South Central Bell Telephone Company and West Kentucky Rural Telephone Cooperative Corporation shall appear at the scheduled hearing and present testimony relative to this matter.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky this 14th day of January, 1981.

UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION


Chairman

Vice Chairman

Commissioner

ATTEST:

Secretary