

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

INVESTIGATION OF PROGRAMS TO	)	
FURTHER THE GOAL OF UNIVERSAL	)	ADMINISTRATIVE
TELEPHONE SERVICE	)	CASE NO. 312

O R D E R

On August 5, 1987, the Public Service Commission ("Commission") initiated this investigation to further the goal of universal telephone service. All Local Exchange Companies ("LECs") and interLATA long distance carriers under the Commission's jurisdiction were made parties to this proceeding. The following parties were granted intervenor status: Utility Rate Cutters; the Attorney General; Joyce Reeves, Office of Kentucky Legal Services Programs, Inc.; the Cabinet for Human Resources; and the Commission on Deaf and Hearing Impaired.

An informal conference was held on August 19, 1987, to review and clarify the issues included in the Order establishing the case; to identify any parties who might be interested in the case who were not represented; and to develop a procedural schedule. Parties submitted briefs on the issue of the Commission's authority to implement lifeline service on September 8, 1987. Testimony addressing the issues list was filed on October 15, 1987.

A second informal conference was held on November 5, 1987, to discuss the briefs; to discuss bifurcation of the Link-Up Kentucky

program and the Lifeline program; and to form a small working group on Lifeline services. All parties at the informal conference agreed that the two programs should be bifurcated and that certification of eligibility for any of the Kentucky welfare programs should be used as eligibility criteria for the Link-Up Kentucky program. The telephone companies agreed to file Link-Up Kentucky tariffs on December 1, 1987. On December 10, 1987, the Commission sent a letter to the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") requesting approval of the Link-Up Kentucky program. On December 24, 1987, the FCC approved the Link-Up Kentucky program. The Link-Up Kentucky tariffs became effective January 1, 1988.

On November 24, 1987, an informal conference was held with the members of the Lifeline Task Force to discuss the revenue implications of using alternate pricing and eligibility scenarios for providing telephone lifeline assistance to low income households. A hearing was held on December 9, 1987, to receive comments on the Lifeline program. Post hearing briefs were filed on January 15, 1988.

After reviewing the record in this case, the Commission has decided to defer a decision on Lifeline service for one year. The Commission is of the opinion that deferring a decision for one year will provide it and the LECs the opportunity to gather information on the impact of the Link-Up Kentucky program on universal service and to better assess the need for Lifeline service. To further this goal of collecting information, the Commission directs the LECs to collect data from the Link-Up

Kentucky applicants for a one-year period as described in Appendix A, and to report the results to the Commission on a quarterly basis.

Summary

The Commission, after consideration of the evidence of record and being advised, is of the opinion and finds that:

1. A decision on implementation of Lifeline service be deferred for one year.

2. All LECs collect information as described in Appendix A from all Link-Up Kentucky applicants and provide summary reports on a quarterly basis to the Commission.

Accordingly, each of the above findings is HEREBY ORDERED.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 14th day of March, 1988.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

  
Chairman

  
Vice Chairman

  
Commissioner

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Director

APPENDIX A

Link-Up Kentucky Program Data to be Collected  
By Local Exchange Companies from Applicants

Company Providing Service \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

County of Residence \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Number of People in Household \_\_\_\_\_

Check Kentucky Welfare Program that Applicant Qualifies for:

Aid to Families with Dependent Children \_\_\_\_\_

Medicaid \_\_\_\_\_ Foodstamps \_\_\_\_\_

Supplemental Security Income \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years Applicant has been without phone service \_\_\_\_\_

How did Applicant learn about Link-Up Kentucky Program? \_\_\_\_\_

Did Applicant file for telephone service at this time because of  
the Link-Up Kentucky Program? \_\_\_\_\_

If disconnected in the future, reasons for disconnection \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_