

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

AN INVESTIGATION OF TOLL AND ACCESS )  
CHARGE PRICING AND TOLL SETTLEMENT )  
AGREEMENTS FOR TELEPHONE UTILITIES ) CASE NO. 8838  
PURSUANT TO CHANGES TO BE EFFECTIVE ) PHASE I  
JANUARY 1, 1984 )

AND

DETARIFFING BILLING AND ) ADMINISTRATIVE  
COLLECTION SERVICES ) CASE NO. 306

O R D E R

On March 12, 1992, AmeriCall Systems, Inc. and AmeriCall Dial-0 Services, Inc. (hereinafter "AmeriCall") filed a request for the Commission to schedule an informal conference to discuss the status of the Independent Telephone Group ("ITG")<sup>1</sup> billing and collection services in Kentucky, specifically, the availability of services to interexchange companies through clearinghouse arrangements. AmeriCall contends that the ITG companies have an obligation to provide billing and collection services without discriminating among interexchange carrier customers pursuant to KRS 278.170.

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<sup>1</sup> Ballard Rural Telephone Coop.; Brandenburg Telephone Company; Duo County Telephone Coop., Inc.; Foothills Rural Telephone Coop.; Harold Telephone Company; Highland Telephone Coop.; Logan Telephone Coop.; Mt. Rural Telephone Coop.; North Central Telephone Coop.; Peoples Rural Telephone Coop.; South Central Rural Telephone Coop.; Thacker & Grigsby Telephone Company; and West Ky. Rural Telephone Coop.

Citing its inability to obtain information from the ITG companies concerning their provision of billing and collection agreements, AmeriCall requests the informal conference be held in conjunction with the conference scheduled for March 26, 1992. AmeriCall further alleges that the issue of subcarrier identification directly relates to billing format issues and that it would be efficient to conduct an informal conference on this matter with the billing format conference already scheduled.

In response to AmeriCall, the ITG urges the Commission to deny AmeriCall's request. The ITG states that this proceeding is nearly concluded and that the Commission should not now expand the issues to be addressed. Further, because all of the ITG companies provide billing and collection services under Duo County Telephone Company's Intrastate Access tariff, they will provide services in response to a bona fide order pursuant to the rules and regulations of the tariff.

The Commission, having considered the request of AmeriCall and the response of the ITG and having been otherwise sufficiently advised, finds that AmeriCall's request should be denied. The informal conference should be limited to the bill format issues of this proceeding. The Commission has formal complaint procedures that may be utilized by any party.


IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that AmeriCall's request be and it hereby is denied.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 23rd day of March, 1992.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

  
Chairman

  
Vice Chairman

  
Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director