

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ESTABLISHMENT OF TDD DISTRIBUTION)
PROGRAM FOR DEAF, HARD-OF-HEARING AND) ADMINISTRATIVE
SPEECH-IMPAIRED PERSONS IN KENTUCKY) CASE NO. 352

O R D E R

On January 19, 1995, the Commission adopted the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing ("KCDHH") plan to implement the telecommunications device for the deaf ("TDD") distribution program pursuant to KRS 278.548. The Order, inter alia, discussed that portion of the implementation plan involving the creation of an advisory board associated with KCDHH. The board will provide input in the administration of the TDD Distribution Program. The Commission found that the TDD advisory board would function for the TDD Distribution Program in a manner similar to that of the advisory board for the Telecommunications Relay Service ("TRS") created by the Commission.¹ In addition, the Commission found that the work of the TRS board and the TDD Distribution Program board would be interconnected. Consequently, the Commission ordered that the boards be merged and placed under KCDHH oversight so that they could directly advise the KCDHH rather than the Public Service Commission. On February 8, 1995, KCDHH filed

¹ Administrative Case No. 333, Establishment of Dual Party Relay Telecommunications Services for Hearing-Impaired or Speech-Impaired Persons in Kentucky.

for rehearing on the issues of the merger of the boards and their placement under the oversight of KCDHH.

The TRS advisory board was created by the Commission to assist the Commission in monitoring the quality of service of the TRS program. The Board's purpose was to assist the Commission in the implementation and initial operational period of TRS in Kentucky.² The implementation and initial operations of TRS in Kentucky have long since concluded.

In its January 19, 1995 Order, the Commission sought to streamline the process of receiving comments from the deaf, hard-of-hearing and speech-impaired community by merging the TRS and TDD boards. The TRS advisory board members have never been reimbursed for their expenses and have always acted in their individual capacities. Should the KCDHH object to overseeing the TRS advisory board, the TRS advisory board will be abolished. Its original purpose was to provide input for the early operational period of TRS in Kentucky, and it has done so effectively. Persons who were members of the TRS board may continue to apprise the Commission of their comments and suggestions for the TRS program. Of course, these members may, on their own initiative, continue meeting and providing group comments for the Public Service Commission's consideration.

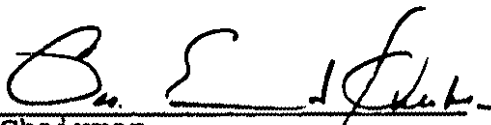
The Commission, having considered the KCDHH's motion for rehearing and having been otherwise sufficiently advised, HEREBY

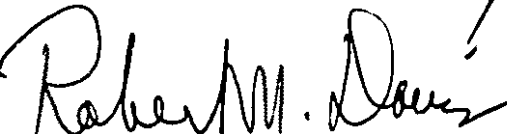
² Letter dated June 26, 1991 from Lee M. McCracken, then Executive Director, Public Service Commission, to Charles S. Willis, Assistant Vice President, AT&T Communications, Inc.

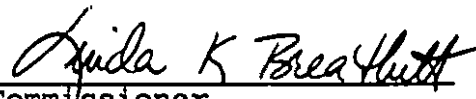
ORDERS that KCDHH's motion for rehearing be denied. However, in response to KCDHH's concerns expressed in its application for rehearing, the Order of January 19, 1995 is hereby modified to the following extent: should KCDHH choose to oversee the TRS advisory board, it shall so notify the Commission within 10 days of the date of this Order. If KCDHH does not so notify the Commission, the TRS advisory board shall be abolished without further Order.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 27th day of February, 1995.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Chairman


Vice Chairman


Commissioner

ATTEST:


Executive Director