

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT OF)	
INFORMATION FILED WITH SOUTH CENTRAL)	CASE NO. 95-419
BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY'S PROPOSED)	
TARIFF FOR SMARTRING®)	

O R D E R

This matter arising upon petition of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. d/b/a South Central Bell Telephone Company ("BellSouth"), filed September 20, 1995, pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, Section 7, for confidential protection of the cost data filed in support of its proposed tariff for SMARTRing® service on the grounds that disclosure of the information is likely to cause BellSouth competitive injury, and it appearing to this Commission as follows:

In this proceeding BellSouth has proposed a tariff for SMARTRing® Service. In support of its application, BellSouth has filed cost information which it seeks to protect as confidential.

The information sought to be protected is not known outside of BellSouth and is not disseminated within BellSouth except to those employees who have a legitimate business need to know and act upon the information. BellSouth seeks to preserve and protect the confidentiality of the information through all appropriate means, including the maintenance of appropriate security at its offices.

KRS 61.872(1) requires information filed with the Commission to be available for public inspection unless specifically exempted

by statute. Exemptions from this requirement are provided in KRS 61.878(1). That subsection of the statute exempts several categories of information. One category exempted in paragraph (c)1 of that subsection is commercial information confidentially disclosed to the Commission which if made public would permit an unfair commercial advantage to competitors of the party from whom the information was obtained. To qualify for the exemption, the party claiming confidentiality must demonstrate actual competition and a likelihood of substantial competitive injury if the information is disclosed. Competitive injury occurs when disclosure of the information gives competitors an unfair business advantage.

SMARTRing® Service has built-in alternative paths enabling service to continue where one pathway has been damaged. It competes with similar networks offered by interexchange carriers, resellers, and providers of alternate access. Disclosure of the cost information would enable competitors to determine BellSouth's cost and contribution from the service which they could use in marketing their competing services. Therefore, disclosure of the information is likely to cause BellSouth competitive injury, and the information should be protected as confidential.

This Commission being otherwise sufficiently advised,

IT IS ORDERED that the cost information filed in support of the proposed tariff for SMARTRing® Service, which BellSouth has petitioned to be withheld from public disclosure, shall be held and retained by this Commission as confidential and shall not be open for public inspection.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 3rd day of November, 1995.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Chairman


Vice Chairman


Commissioner

ATTEST:


Executive Director