

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.'S)
REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT)
OF INFORMATION FILED IN SUPPORT OF ITS) CASE NO. 97-111
CONTRACT WITH GLOBALNET, INC., FOR)
PATHLINKSM SERVICE)

O R D E R

This matter arising upon petition of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth"), filed March 6, 1997, pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, Section 7, for confidential protection of the cost support data developed in connection with BellSouth's contract with GlobalNet, Inc. for PathLinkSM Service on the grounds that disclosure of the information is likely to cause BellSouth competitive injury and it appearing to this Commission as follows:

BellSouth has contracted with GlobalNet, Inc. to provide PathLinkSM Service. PathLinkSM Service allows customers to transmit data over the ISDN channels through the exchange network. In support of the contract, 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 to 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.

PathLinkSM Service is an alternative to other local exchange service offerings, private line/data services, and dedicated private line networks. Competitors for local service include alternate access providers, resellers, and interexchange carriers. Disclosure of the information sought to be protected would allow such competitors to determine BellSouth's cost and contribution from the service which they could use in marketing their competing services to the detriment of BellSouth. 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 support data developed in connection with the contract with GlobalNet, Inc. for PathLinkSM 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 10th day of April, 1997.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Linda K Breaugh
Chairman

Ed J. Hines
Vice Chairman

B. J. Helton
Commissioner

ATTEST:

Don Rich
Executive Director