

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.'S )  
REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT ) CASE NO. 97-117  
OF INFORMATION FILED IN SUPPORT OF ITS )  
CONTRACT WITH DYNASTY ON LINE )

O R D E R

This matter arising upon petition of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth"), filed March 7, 1997, pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, Section 7, for confidential protection of the cost information filed in support of its contract with Dynasty On Line for the provision of Call Forwarding Variable Multiple Simultaneous Calls. This feature is currently tariffed for 5ESS and DMS digital offices, but not for EWSD® offices like the one from which Dynasty On Line is served. 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 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.

Call Forwarding can also be provided through customer premises equipment and PBX systems, and is a vertical service that can be provided by competitors for local service. BellSouth's competitors for local service include alternate access providers, resellers, and interexchange carriers. Disclosure of the cost information would enable such competitors to determine BellSouth's cost and contribution from the service, which they could use to market 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 filed in support of the contract with Dynasty On Line for Call Forwarding Variable Multiple Simultaneous Calls, 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 11th day of April, 1997.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Linda K. Brackbill  
Chairman

Elmer J. Hines  
Vice Chairman

B. J. Helton  
Commissioner

ATTEST:

Don Mills  
Executive Director