

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. 97-155  
PROPOSED TARIFF INTRODUCING A NEW )  
INWARD DATA OPTION OF PATHLINK<sup>SM</sup> )  
SERVICE )

O R D E R

This matter arising upon petition of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth"), filed March 25, 1997, pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, Section 7, for confidential protection of the cost support data developed in connection with BellSouth's tariff for Inward Data 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 introduced a new option for PathLink<sup>SM</sup> Service called Inward Data. This service will allow customers to have their services provisioned to receive only analog and digital data calls. In support of the tariff for this service, BellSouth has provided cost data 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.

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.

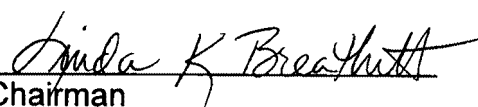
PathLink<sup>SM</sup> Service, of which Inward Data is a part, is an alternative to other local exchange service offerings, private line/data services and dedicated private line networks. BellSouth's competitors for local service include alternate access providers, resellers and interexchange carriers. BellSouth's competitors for private line data services and networks are interexchange carriers, resellers and vendors of microwave, digital radio, fiber, VSAT and other wireless equipment and services. Disclosure of the information sought to be protected would enable 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.

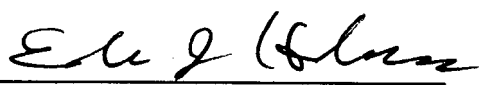
This Commission being otherwise sufficiently advised,

IT IS ORDERED that the cost support data filed in support of the tariff for Inward Data, 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 9th day of May, 1997.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

  
Chairman

  
Vice Chairman

  
Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director