

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 )  
FRAME RELAY SERVICE AND BROADBAND ) CASE NO. 97-181  
EXCHANGE LINE SERVICE CONTRACT WITH )  
PIKEVILLE UNITED METHODIST HOSPITAL )  
OF KY, INC. )

O R D E R

This matter arising upon petition of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth"), filed April 11, 1997, pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, Section 7, for confidential protection of the cost support data developed in connection with BellSouth's special service arrangement contract with Pikeville United Methodist Hospital of KY, Inc. ("Pikeville Hospital") for Frame Relay Service and Broadband Exchange Line 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 Pikeville Hospital to provide Frame Relay Service and Broadband Exchange Line Service. Frame Relay Service is a packet data offering and Broadband Exchange Line Service is a service which connects Frame Relay Service to the customer's premises. This contract will enable Pikeville Hospital to connect its facilities to various clinics in a frame relay network.

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.

Frame Relay Service, a packet data offering, competes with similar services offered by providers of competitive private line networks. These include providers of microwave service, digital radio, and fiber networks. Disclosure of the information 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.

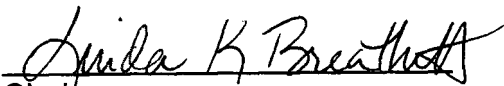
This Commission being otherwise sufficiently advised,

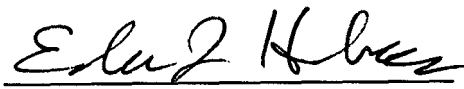
IT IS ORDERED that the cost support data developed in connection with the special service arrangement contract with Pikeville Hospital for Frame Relay Service and

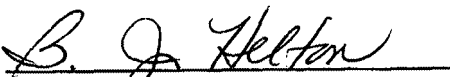
Broadband Exchange Line Service, which BellSouth has petitioned to be withheld from public disclosure shall be held and retained by this Commission and shall not be open for public inspection.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 20th day of May, 1997.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

  
Chairman

  
Vice Chairman

  
Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director