

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. 97-237
CONTRACT FOR APPALACHIAN REGIONAL)
HEALTHCARE)

O R D E R

This matter arising upon petition of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth"), filed May 5, 1997, pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, Section 7, for confidential protection of the cost data filed in support of the Volume and Term Agreement filed with Appalachian Regional Healthcare ("ARH") 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 entered into a Volume and Term Agreement to provide certain services at a discount rate. These services include basic business services (including Business local exchange service, Inside Wire, and various vertical services), MegaLink® Service, SynchroNet® Service, FlexServ® Service, PBX Trunks and Direct Inward Dialing, and Hunting. 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 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.

Basic business services, PBX Trunks and Direct Inward Dialing, and Hunting are primarily local exchange services. BellSouth's competitors for local service include alternate access providers, resellers and interexchange carriers. FlexServ® Service allows customers to reconfigure their network services and is potentially competitive with services provided by other carriers. MegaLink® Service and SynchroNet® Service are private line services. BellSouth's competitors for private line networks are interexchange carriers, competitive access providers, and providers of microwave service, digital radio, and fiber networks. Disclosure of the information sought to be protected would enable BellSouth's competitors to determine its cost and contribution from the services 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 data filed in support of the Volume and Term Agreement with ARH, 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 29th day of May, 1997.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Linda K. Breathitt
Chairman

Eden J. Holmes
Vice Chairman

B. J. Helton
Commissioner

ATTEST:

Don Mills
Executive Director