

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

THE APPLICATION OF AEP COMMUNICATIONS, )  
LLC FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO )  
PROVIDE NON-SWITCHED PRIVATE NETWORK ) CASE NO. 97-495  
AND OTHER SERVICES TO THIRD PARTIES IN )  
THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY )

O R D E R

On December 8, 1997, AEP Communications, LLC ("AEP Communications") filed an application with the Commission seeking a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to provide intrastate telecommunications services within the Commonwealth of Kentucky. AEP Communications is a limited liability company organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia with its principal office in Columbus, Ohio. AEP Communications is an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of American Electric Power Company, Inc.

AEP Communications seeks authority to provide intrastate telecommunications services throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky. AEP Communications plans to provide non-switched private network service in the Ashland, Kentucky Metropolitan area. Initially, service will be provided through the lease of portions of existing unused fiber network facilities. AEP Communications advises that it may build additional fiber facilities within the Kentucky Power service area.

On December 8, 1997, AEP Communications submitted its proposed tariff, which is pending Commission review. AEP Communications shall not provide service until its tariff is approved.

Pursuant to Section 253 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, AEP Communications may not offer local exchange service until it completes negotiations with incumbent local exchange carriers and the resulting agreements have been submitted to and approved by the Commission.

AEP Communications has demonstrated its financial, managerial and technical capability to provide utility service. The Commission finds that AEP Communications should be authorized to provide intrastate telecommunications services within the Commonwealth of Kentucky, as described in this Order and AEP Communications' application.

The Commission, having considered the evidence of record and being otherwise sufficiently advised, HEREBY ORDERS that:

1. AEP Communications is granted authority to provide intrastate telecommunications services within the Commonwealth of Kentucky.
2. AEP Communications shall not provide service prior to Commission approval of its tariff.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 18th day of March, 1998.

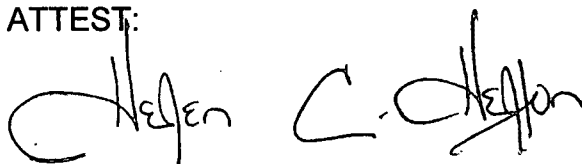
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

  
Chairman

  
Vice Chairman

  
Commissioner

ATTEST:



Executive Director