

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

THE APPLICATION OF WEST KENTUCKY RURAL)	
TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE CORPORATION, INC.)	
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE)	CASE NO.
AND NECESSITY TO CONSTRUCT NEW)	2000-491
FACILITIES)	

O R D E R

On November 9, 2000, West Kentucky Rural Telephone Cooperative Corporation, Inc. ("WKRTCC") filed an application seeking a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct new facilities and upgrade existing facilities throughout its fifteen exchanges in Graves, Hickman, Carlisle, Calloway, and Marshall counties in west Kentucky. WKRTCC is a non-stock, non-profit membership cooperative corporation with its main office in Mayfield, Graves County, Kentucky.

The total estimated cost of the proposed construction, including engineering, over the five year loan period is \$45,112,810. The construction will be financed through the Rural Utilities Service ("RUS") and the Rural Telephone Bank ("RTB"). RUS will provide \$29,001,000 and RTB will provide \$16,917,600. In addition, WKRTCC will be required to purchase \$805,600 of RTB's class B shares. WKRTCC states that it does not anticipate any rate adjustments as a result of the expenditures associated with the proposed construction.

The proposed construction will consist of a switching network replacement, reinforcement of existing distribution cable, placement of new remotes and concentrators as required to eliminate loaded cable plant, and fiber-optic transmission

facilities to support four exchanges and new and existing remotes. The proposed upgrade will accommodate growth in all of WKRTCC's exchanges and improve service capabilities in keeping with the State Telecommunications Modernization Plan (STMP) and the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

The Commission finds that WKRTCC has demonstrated that the proposed construction is necessary to maintain adequate utility service. The Commission, therefore, finds that WKRTCC should be issued a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct the proposed facilities as described in this Order and the application.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. WKRTCC be granted a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct the proposed facilities as described in this Order and its application.
2. WKRTCC shall notify the Commission in writing, if the actual costs of the proposed construction exceed the estimated expenditures reported herein by more than 10 percent and thoroughly describe the reason for the adjustment.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 20th day of December, 2000.

By the Commission

ATTEST:


Executive Director