COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

AN INQUIRY INTO THE STATE) CASE NO. 2016-00059 UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND)

ORDER

On September 15, 2016, BCN Telecom, Inc. ("BCN") filed a motion, pursuant to KRS 61.878 and 807 KAR 5:001, Section 13, requesting that certain materials contained in its response to Commission Staff's Second Request for Information ("Staff's Second Request"), Item 1, Exhibit A, be afforded confidential treatment for an indefinite period of time. The designated materials are more particularly described as the total number of access lines BCN had in service in Kentucky, the amount of surcharge remitted to the Kentucky Universal Service Fund ("USF"), and the amount of reimbursement requested from Kentucky USF for providing Lifeline service, which is contained on Lines 1, 3, and 5, respectively, on the Commonwealth of Kentucky Universal Service Fund forms ("KUSF Form") submitted by BCN for January 2014 through June 2016.

In support of this motion, BCN argues that the designated materials on Lines 1, 3, and 5 of the KUSF Forms are commercially sensitive and proprietary information that provides potential competitive market opportunity information that competitors could use to target BCN's customers in the service area. BCN asserts that public disclosure of the designated materials would permit an unfair commercial advantage to BCN's competitors, and thus the materials are generally recognized as confidential and are exempt from public disclosure pursuant to KRS 61.878(1)(c)(1).

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Having carefully considered the petition and the materials at issue, the Commission finds that the designated materials on Lines 1, 3, and 5 of the KUSF Form are not materials that meet the criteria for confidential treatment under KRS 61.878(1)(c)(1). KRS 61.878(1)(c)(1) applies to material generally recognized as confidential or proprietary, which would permit an unfair commercial advantage to competitors if openly disclosed. The Commission finds that BCN has not established that disclosure of these materials could result in an unfair commercial advantage to its competitors, as the total number of BCN's subscriber lines is publicly available from other sources.

Pursuant to KRS 278.140 utilities are required annually to file with the Commission a report of gross earnings from intrastate business. In these reports, telecommunications carriers are required to report the number of access lines as well as their annual revenue derived from intrastate business. BCN began filing these reports in 2004, has included the number of its access lines in the report, and has neither sought nor received confidential treatment for this information. These gross earnings reports are public records, available for public inspection. Therefore, because the information for which BCN seeks confidential protection is publicly available elsewhere, BCN has failed to demonstrate that designated materials meet the criteria for confidential treatment pursuant to KRS 61.878(1)(c)(1), and its request for confidential treatment of the designated materials should be denied.

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IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

 BCN's motion for confidential protection for its response to Staff's Second Request, Item 1, Exhibit A, is hereby denied.

2. Within seven days of the date of this Order, BCN shall file a revised version of its response to Staff's Second Request, Item 1, Exhibit A, for which confidential protection was denied, reflecting as unredacted the information that has been denied confidential treatment.

3. The materials for which BCN's request for confidential treatment has been denied shall neither be placed in the public record nor made available for inspection for 20 days from the date of this Order in order to allow BCN to seek a remedy afforded by law.

By the Commission

ENTERED FEB 0 2 2017 **KENTUCKY PUBLIC** COMMISSION

ATTEST:

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Executive Director

Case No. 2016-00059

NET TALK.COM, INC. NET TALK.COM, INC. 1100 NW 163rd Drive, Suite 3 North Miami Beach, FL 33169

*Wireless Telecom Cooperative, Inc. d Wireless Telecom Cooperative, Inc. dba 2317 West Chestnut Street Louisville, KY 40211

*Wireless Telecom Cooperative, Inc. d Wireless Telecom Cooperative, Inc. dba 2317 West Chestnut Street Louisville, KY 40211

*T.V. Service, Incorporated T.V. Service, Incorporated 2742 Hwy 550 E Hindman, KY 41822

*Tempo Telecom, LLC Tempo Telecom, LLC 2323 Grand Blvd, Suite 925 Kansas City, MO 64108

*Tempo Telecom, LLC Tempo Telecom, LLC 2323 Grand Blvd, Suite 925 Kansas City, MO 64108

*L Allyson Honaker Goss Samford, PLLC 2365 Harrodsburg Road, Suite B325 Lexington, KENTUCKY 40504 *MCC Telephony of the South, LLC d/b/a MCC Telephony of the South, LLC d/b/a One Mediacom Way Mediacom Park, NY 10918

*Pix Wireless, LLC Pix Wireless, LLC 21346 Saint Andrews Blvd, Suite 225 Boca Raton, FL 33433

*Flatel Wireless, Inc dba Zing PCS Flatel Wireless, Inc dba Zing PCS 9601 Worswick Court Wellington, FL 33414

*ATC Outdoor DAS, LLC ATC Outdoor DAS, LLC 10 Presidential Way Woburn, MA 01801

*Thacker-Grigsby Telephone Company, I Thacker-Grigsby Telephone Company, 60 Communications Lane P. O. Box 789 Hindman, KY 41822

*Thacker-Grigsby Telephone Company, I Thacker-Grigsby Telephone Company, 60 Communications Lane P. O. Box 789 Hindman, KY 41822

*IBFA Acquisition Company, LLC IBFA Acquisition Company, LLC 353 Sacramento Street Suite 1500 San Francisco, CA 94111 *Communications Venture Corporation d/b/a Communications Venture Corporation d/b/a 1616 Directors Row Fort Wayne, IN 46808

*UnityComm, LLC UnityComm, LLC 101 E Main Street P. O. Box 250 Syracuse, IN 46567

*CityNet Kentucky, LLC CityNet Kentucky, LLC 100 Citynet Drive Bridgeport, WV 26330

*R. Brooks Herrick Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP 101 South Fifth Street Suite 2500 Louisville, KENTUCKY 40202

*Leslie County Telephone Company, Inc Leslie County Telephone Company, Inc. 22076 Main Street P. O. Box 969 Hyden, KY 41749-0969

*Lewisport Telephone Company, Inc. Lewisport Telephone Company, Inc. 30 Pell Street Lewisport, KY 42351

*Salem Telephone Company Salem Telephone Company 221 East Main Street P. O. Box 25 Salem, KY 42078-0025 *Blue Jay Wireless, LLC Blue Jay Wireless, LLC 5010 Addison Circle Addison, TX 75001

*Brandenburg Telecom, LLC Brandenburg Telecom, LLC 200 Telco Drive Brandenburg, KY 40108

*Brandenburg Telephone Company, Inc. Brandenburg Telephone Company, Inc. 200 Telco Road P. O. Box 599 Brandenburg, KY 40108

*Cincinnati Bell Telephone Company Cincinnati Bell Telephone Company 221 East Fourth Street Room 103-1280 Cincinnati, OH 45202

*Globalstar USA, LLC Globalstar USA, LLC 300 Holiday Square Blvd Covington, LA 70433

*Cindy D McCarty Staff Attorney East Kentucky Network, LLC dba Appalachian 101 Technology Trail Ivel, KY 41642

*ExteNet Systems, Inc. ExteNet Systems, Inc. 3030 Warrenville Road, Suite 340 Lisle, IL 60532 *Velocity The Greatest Phone Company Velocity The Greatest Phone Company Ever, Inc. 7130 Spring Meadows Drive West Holland, OH 43528

*KDDI America, Inc. KDDI America, Inc. 825 Third Avenue, 3rd Floor New York, NY 10022

*Cheryl Winn Waters Law Group, PLLC 12802 Townepark Way, Suite 200 Louisville, KENTUCKY 40243

*Highland Telephone Cooperative, Inc. Highland Telephone Cooperative, Inc. 7840 Morgan County Highway P. O. Box 119 Sunbright, TN 37872

*David S Samford Goss Samford, PLLC 2365 Harrodsburg Road, Suite B325 Lexington, KENTUCKY 40504

*Douglas E Hart 441 Vine Street, Suite 4192 Cincinnati, OHIO 45202

*AmeriMex Communications Corp. dba SafetyNet AmeriMex Communications Corp. dba SafetyNet 2323 Curlew Road, Suite 7B Dunedin, FL 34698 *Honorable Douglas F Brent Attorney at Law Stoll Keenon Ogden, PLLC 2000 PNC Plaza 500 W Jefferson Street Louisville, KENTUCKY 40202-2828

*Kentucky RSA #3 Cellular General Partnership, Kentucky RSA #3 Cellular General Partnership, 2902 Ring Road P. O. Box 5012 Elizabethtown, KY 42701

*Kentucky RSA #4 Cellular General Partnership, Kentucky RSA #4 Cellular General Partnership, 2902 Ring Road P. O. Box 5012 Elizabethtown, KY 42701

*NetDiverse, LLC NetDiverse, LLC 885 Sandhurst Drive Salt Lake City, UT 84103

*Simple Signal, Inc. Simple Signal, Inc. 34232 Pacific Coast Highway Suite E Dana Point, CA 92629

*iCore Networks, Inc. iCore Networks, Inc. 7900 Westpark Drive, Suite A-315 McLean, VA 22102

*Logan Telephone Cooperative, Inc. Logan Telephone Cooperative, Inc. 10725 Bowling Green Road P. O. Box 97 Auburn, KY 42206 *Patriot Mobile LLC Patriot Mobile LLC 2271 E Continental, Suite 120 Southlake, TX 76092

*Image Access, Inc. dba NewPhone Image Access, Inc. dba NewPhone 7324 Southwest Freeway, Suite 475 Houston, TX 77074

*Jack W. Pruitte dba First Phone Jack W. Pruitte dba First Phone 3281-B Fort Campbell Blvd P. O. Box 504 Clarksville, TN 37042

*MCImetro Access Transmission Service d/b/a MCImetro Access Transmission Services Corp. 600 Hidden Ridge Irving, TX 75038

*The People's Operator USA, LLC The People's Operator USA, LLC 915 Broadway, Suite 1306 New York, NY 10010

*Air Voice Wireless, LLC Air Voice Wireless, LLC 2425 Franklin Road Bloomfield Hill, MI 48302

*QuantumShift Communications, Inc. dba vCom QuantumShift Communications, Inc. dba vCom 12657 Alcosta Blvd, Suite 418 San Ramon, CA 94583 *Inter-Mountain Cable, Inc. dba MTS C Inter-Mountain Cable, Inc. dba MTS 20 Laynesville Road P. O. Box 160 Harold, KY 41635

*Gearheart Communications Company, In dba Gearheart Communications Company, Inc. dba 20 Laynesville Road Harold, KY 41635

*South Central Telcom, LLC South Central Telcom, LLC 1399 Happy Valley Road P. O. Box 159 Glasgow, KY 42142-0159

*South Central Rural Telephone Cooperative South Central Rural Telephone Cooperative 1399 Happy Valley Road P. O. Box 159 Glasgow, KY 42142-0159

*Consumer Cellular, Incorporated Consumer Cellular, Incorporated 7204 SW Durham Road, Suite 300 Portland, OR 97224

*Crexendo Business Solutions, Inc. Crexendo Business Solutions, Inc. 1615 S 52nd Street Tempe, AZ 85281

*France Telecom Corporate Solutions L France Telecom Corporate Solutions L.L.C. 13775 McLearen Road Mail Stop 1100 Oak Hill, VA 20171-3212 *France Telecom Corporate Solutions L France Telecom Corporate Solutions L.L.C. 13775 McLearen Road Mail Stop 1100 Oak Hill, VA 20171-3212

*Bluegrass Telephone Company, Inc. dba Bluegrass Telephone Company, Inc. dba 101 Mill Street Leitchfield, KY 42754

*Stream Communications, LLC Stream Communications, LLC 1950 Stemmons Fwy, Suite 3000 Dallas, TX 75207

*John E Selent Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP 101 South Fifth Street Suite 2500 Louisville, KENTUCKY 40202

*SpeedBeam Lexington, LLC SpeedBeam Lexington, LLC 3070 Lakecrest Circle Lexington, KY 40513

*American Broadband and Telecommunica American Broadband and Telecommunications 1 Seagate, Suite 600 Toledo, OH 43699

*American Broadband and Telecommunica American Broadband and Telecommunications 1 Seagate, Suite 600 Toledo, OH 43699 *Timberline Specialized Management, L Timberline Specialized Management, LLC 5271 Memorial Drive, Suite 200 Houston, TX 77007

*Peoples Rural Telephone Cooperative Peoples Rural Telephone Cooperative Highway 421 South P. O. Box 159 McKee, KY 40447

*Peoples Telecom, LLC Peoples Telecom, LLC 259 Main Street P. O. Box 159 McKee, KY 40447

*BCN Telecom, Inc. BCN Telecom, Inc. 1200 Mt. Kemble Ave, 3rd Floor Morristown, NJ 07960

*BCN Telecom, Inc. BCN Telecom, Inc. 1200 Mt. Kemble Ave, 3rd Floor Morristown, NJ 07960

*Budget Prepay, Inc. dba Budget Phone Budget Prepay, Inc. dba Budget Phone 1325 Barksdale Blvd, Suite 200 Bossier City, LA 71111

*Budget PrePay, Inc. dba Budget Mobil Budget PrePay, Inc. dba Budget Mobile 1325 Barksdale Blvd, Suite 200 Bossier City, LA 71111 *Larry Cook Assistant Attorney General Office of the Attorney General Office of Rate 700 Capitol Avenue Suite 20 Frankfort, KENTUCKY 40601-8204

*East Kentucky Network, LLC dba Appal East Kentucky Network, LLC dba Appalachian 101 Technology Trail Ivel, KY 41642

*East Kentucky Network, LLC East Kentucky Network, LLC 101 Technology Trail Ivel, KY 41642

*Luke Morgan McBrayer, McGinnis, Leslie and Kirkland, PLLC 201 East Main Street Suite 1000 Lexington, KENTUCKY 40507

*TAG Mobile, LLC TAG Mobile, LLC 1330 Capital Parkway Carrollton, TX 75006

*CampusTVs, Inc. CampusTVs, Inc. 598 Boston Post Road Weston, MA 02493

*Telrite Corporation Telrite Corporation 4113 Monticello Street Covington, GA 30014 *Telrite Corporation dba Life Wireles Telrite Corporation dba Life Wireless 4113 Monticello Street Covington, GA 30014

*Ready Wireless, LLC Ready Wireless, LLC 955 Kacena Road, Suite A Hiawatha, IA 52233

*Cumberland Cellular Partnership d/b/a Bluegrass Cumberland Cellular Partnership d/b/a Bluegrass 2902 Ring Road P. O. Box 5012 Elizabethtown, KY 42701

*Bluegrass Wireless, LLC Bluegrass Wireless, LLC 2902 Ring Road P. O. Box 5012 Elizabethtown, KY 42701

*Kentucky Hearing and Telephone Corpo d/b/a Kentucky Hearing and Telephone Corporation 5070 Mark IV Parkway Fort Worth, TX 76106

*North Central Telephone Cooperative, North Central Telephone Cooperative, Inc. 872 Highway 52 By-Pass E P. O. Box 70 Lafayette, TN 37083-0070

*North Central Communications, Inc. North Central Communications, Inc. 872 Highway 52 By-Pass E P. O. Box 70 Lafayette, TN 37083 *SelecTel, Inc. d/b/a SelecTel Wirele SelecTel, Inc. d/b/a SelecTel Wireless 1825 N Bell Street Freemont, NE 40504

*Windward Wireless LLC Windward Wireless LLC 3245 Peachtree Pkwy, Suite D Suwanee, GA 30024

*Windward Wireless LLC Windward Wireless LLC 3245 Peachtree Pkwy, Suite D Suwanee, GA 30024

*Phone Club Corporation Phone Club Corporation 4262 Old A1A Palm Coast, FL 32137

*Q Link Wireless, LLC Q Link Wireless, LLC 499 East Sheridan Street, Suite 400 Dania, FL 33004

*BetterWorld Telecom, LLC BetterWorld Telecom, LLC 11951 Freedom Drive, 13th Floor Reston, VA 20190

*ComTech 21, LLC ComTech 21, LLC One Barnes Park South Wallingford, CT 06492 *Boomerang Wireless, LLC Boomerang Wireless, LLC 955 Kacena Road, Suite A Hiawatha, IA 52233

*Total Call Mobile, Inc. Total Call Mobile, Inc. 1411 W 190th Street, Suite 650 Gardena, CA 90248

*Magna5 LLC Magna5 LLC 2828 North Harwood Street Suite 1700 Dallas, TX 75201

*e-Tel, LLC dba e-Tel Murray, LLC e-Tel, LLC dba e-Tel Murray, LLC 607 Broadway Paducah, KY 42001

*Ballard Rural Telephone Cooperative Ballard Rural Telephone Cooperative Corporation, 159 W 2nd Street P. O. Box 209 La Center, KY 42056-0209

*Lycamobile USA, Inc. Lycamobile USA, Inc. 24 Commerce Street, Suite 100 Newark, NJ 07102

*Foothills Rural Telephone Cooperativ Foothills Rural Telephone Cooperative 1621 Kentucky Route 40 W P. O. Box 240 Staffordsville, KY 41256 *Cellular Services, LLC Cellular Services, LLC 1621 KY Route 40W P. O. Box 240 Staffordsville, KY 41256

*TracFone Wireless, Inc. TracFone Wireless, Inc. 9700 NW 112th Avenue Miami, FL 33178

*Armstrong Telecommunications, Inc. Armstrong Telecommunications, Inc. One Armstrong Place Butler, PA 16001

*Touchtone Communications, Inc. Touchtone Communications, Inc. 16 South Jefferson Road Whippany, NJ 07981

*Touchtone Communications, Inc. Touchtone Communications, Inc. 16 South Jefferson Road Whippany, NJ 07981

*SI Wireless, LLC d/b/a MobileNation d/b/a Twigby SI Wireless, LLC d/b/a MobileNation d/b/a Twigby 1275 North Reed Station Road Carbondale, IL 62902

*Mountain Rural Telephone Cooperative Mountain Rural Telephone Cooperative 425 Main Street, Suite 1 P. O. Box 399 West Liberty, KY 41472 *OneTone Telecom, Inc. OneTone Telecom, Inc. 100 Century Plaza Suite 9-1 Seneca, SC 29672

*Cellco Partnership dba Verizon Wirel Cellco Partnership dba Verizon Wireless One Verizon Way Mailcode VC53S475 Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

*GTE Wireless of the Midwest dba Veri GTE Wireless of the Midwest dba Verizon One Verizon Way Mailcode VC53S475 Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

*Kentucky RSA #1 Partnership Kentucky RSA #1 Partnership One Verizon Way Mailcode VC53S475 Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

*New Par dba Verizon Wireless New Par dba Verizon Wireless One Verizon Way Mailcode VC53S475 Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

*Rural Cellular Corporation dba Verizon Wireless Rural Cellular Corporation dba Verizon Wireless One Verizon Way Mailcode VC53S475 Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

*Alltel Communications, LLC Alltel Communications, LLC One Verizon Way Mailcode VC53S475 Basking Ridge, NJ 07920 *Beaver Telecom, LLC Beaver Telecom, LLC 1509 McDuffie Street Houston, TX 77019

*Win.Net Telecommunications, Inc. Win.Net Telecommunications, Inc. 332 W Broadway, Suite 214 Louisville, KY 40202

*Easy Telephone Service Company dba E Easy Telephone Service Company dba Easy 4352 SE 95th Street Ocala, FL 34480

*dishNet Wireline, LLC dishNet Wireline, LLC 9601 S Meridian Blvd Englewood, CO 80112

*Solavei, LLC Solavei, LLC 10500 NE 8th Street, Suite 1300 Bellevue, WA 98004

*West Kentucky Rural Telephone Cooper dba West Kentucky Rural Telephone Cooperative 237 North Eighth Street P. O. Box 649 Mayfield, KY 42066-0649 *Edward T Depp Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP 101 South Fifth Street Suite 2500 Louisville, KENTUCKY 40202

*NextGen Communications, Inc. NextGen Communications, Inc. 275 West Street, Suite 400 Annapolis, MD 21401 *IM Telecom, LLC d/b/a Infiniti Mobil IM Telecom, LLC d/b/a Infiniti Mobile 1705 South Baltimore Avenue Tulsa, OK 74119

*Ted Heckman Managing Director, Regulatory & Government Cincinnati Bell Telephone Company 221 E Fourth Street, Room 103-1170 Cincinnati, OH 45202

*Cumberland Cellular, Inc. dba Duo Co Cumberland Cellular, Inc. dba Duo County 2150 N Main Street P. O. Box 80 Jamestown, KY 41269

*Wild Telecommunications, Inc. Wild Telecommunications, Inc. 220 Greenbriar Road Lexington, KY 40503

*MuniNet Fiber Agency MuniNet Fiber Agency 1500 Broadway Street Paducah, KY 42001

*The Electric Plant Board of the City d/b/a The Electric Plant Board of the City of Paducah, 1500 Broadway Street Paducah, KY 42001 *BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC db BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC dba AT&T 601 W Chestnut Street 4th Floor East Louisville, KY 40203

*BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC db BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC dba AT&T 601 W Chestnut Street 4th Floor East Louisville, KY 40203

*Teleport Communications America, LLC Teleport Communications America, LLC 601 W Chestnut Street 4th Floor East Louisville, KY 40203

*BellSouth Long Distance, Inc. dba AT BellSouth Long Distance, Inc. dba AT&T Long 601 W Chestnut Street, Suite 408 Louisville, KY 40203

*Cricket Wireless, LLC Cricket Wireless, LLC 12735 Morris Road, Building 200 Alpharetta, GA 30004

*Duo County Telephone Cooperative Cor Duo County Telephone Cooperative Corporation, 2150 N Main Street P. O. Box 80 Jamestown, KY 42629

*AT&T Corp. AT&T Corp. 601 W Chestnut Street 4th Floor East Louisville, KY 40203 *New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC dba A New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC dba AT&T 1010 N St Mary's Street, 9th Floor San Antonio, TX 78215

*Velocity Networks of Kentucky, Inc. Velocity Networks of Kentucky, Inc. 120 East Third Street Russellville, KY 42276

*Telecommunication Properties, Inc. Telecommunication Properties, Inc. 901 Main Street, Suite 2600 Dallas, TX 75202

*i-Wireless, LLC i-Wireless, LLC 1 Levee Way, Suite 3104 Newport, KY 41071

*Eastern Telephone & Technologies Eastern Telephone & Technologies 106 Power Drive Pikeville, KY 41501

*Windstream Norlight, LLC Windstream Norlight, LLC 4001 Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212

*US LEC of Tennessee, LLC dba PAETEC US LEC of Tennessee, LLC dba PAETEC 4001 N Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212 *Windstream Kentucky West, LLC Windstream Kentucky West, LLC 4001 N Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212

*Windstream NuVox, LLC Windstream NuVox, LLC 4001 N Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212

*Talk America, LLC Talk America, LLC 4001 N Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212

*Network Telephone, LLC Network Telephone, LLC 4001 N Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212

*McLeodUSA Telecommunications Service McLeodUSA Telecommunications Services, LLC 4001 N Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212

*The Other Phone Company, LLC dba Access The Other Phone Company, LLC dba Access One 4001 N Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212

*Windstream Communications, LLC Windstream Communications, LLC 4001 N Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212 *Windstream KDL, LLC Windstream KDL, LLC 4001 N Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212

*PAETEC Communications, LLC PAETEC Communications, LLC 4001 N Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212

*Windstream NTI, LLC Windstream NTI, LLC 4001 N Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212

*Windstream Kentucky East, LLC Windstream Kentucky East, LLC 4001 N Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212