COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

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

ORDER

On April 27, 2016, McLeod USA Telecommunications Services, LLC; Network Telephone, LLC; PAETEC Communications, LLC; Talk America, LLC; The Other Phone Company, LLC; US LEC of Tennessee, LLC; Windstream Communications, LLC; Windstream KDL, LLC; Windstream Kentucky East, LLC; Windstream Kentucky West, LLC; Windstream Norlight, LLC; Windstream NTI, LLC; Windstream NuVox, LLC (jointly, Windstream Companies) filed a motion, pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, Section 13, and KRS61.878(1)(c)(1), requesting that the Commission grant confidential treatment for Kentucky Universal Service Fund (KUSF) reimbursement forms for ten years. The information for which Windstream Companies request confidential treatment is more specifically described as information showing the total number of access lines on which Windstream Companies collect KUSF surcharges, the amount of surcharge remitted to the KUSF fund, the number of access lines receiving Lifeline Support, and the amount of reimbursement requested from the KUSF.

In support of its motion, Windstream Companies argues that the requested documents are exempt pursuant to KRS 61.878(1)(c) and disclosure would permit an unfair commercial advantage to competitors of the Windstream Companies. Windstream Companies assert disclosure of this proprietary information regarding the number of

access lines and KUSF fund remittances would harm the Windstream Companies' position in the marketplace.

Having considered the motion and the material at issue, the Commission finds that KUSF reimbursement forms are generally recognized as confidential or proprietary; and therefore meet the criteria for confidential treatment and are exempted from public disclosure pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, Section 13, and KRS 61.878(1)(c)(1).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

- 1. Windstream Companies' motion for confidential treatment is granted.
- 2. The designated material granted confidential treatment by this Order shall not be placed in the public record or made available for public inspection for ten years or until further Order of this Commission.
- 3. Use of the designated material granted confidential treatment by this Order in any Commission proceeding shall comply with 807 KAR 5:001, Section 13(9).
- 4. Windstream Companies shall inform the Commission if the designated material granted confidential treatment by this Order becomes publicly available or no longer qualifies for confidential treatment.
- 5. If a nonparty to this proceeding requests to inspect the material granted confidential treatment by this Order and the period during which the material has been granted confidential treatment has not expired, Windstream Companies shall have 30 days from receipt of written notice of the request to demonstrate that the material still falls within the exclusions from disclosure requirements established in KRS 61.878. If Windstream Companies is unable to make such demonstration, the requested material

shall be made available for inspection. Otherwise, the Commission shall deny the request for inspection.

6. The Commission shall not make the requested material available for inspection for 30 days from the date of service of an Order finding that the material no longer qualifies for confidential treatment in order to allow Windstream Companies to seek a remedy afforded by law.

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By the Commission

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KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

ATTEST:

Executive Director

JM Steinhart Law Offices of Lance J.M. Steinhart 6455 East Johns Crossing, Suite 285 Duluth, GEORGIA 30155

*Flatel Wireless, Inc dba Zing PCS Flatel Wireless, Inc dba Zing PCS 9601 Worswick Court Wellington, FL 33414 *UnityComm, LLC UnityComm, LLC 101 E Main Street P. O. Box 250 Syracuse, IN 46567

NET TALK.COM, INC. NET TALK.COM, INC. 1100 NW 163rd Drive, Suite 3 North Miami Beach, FL 33169 *Thacker-Grigsby Telephone Company, I Thacker-Grigsby Telephone Company, 60 Communications Lane P. O. Box 789 Hindman, KY 41822 *Brad Thomas South Central Rural Telecommunications 1399 Happy Valley Road P. O. Box 159 Glasgow, KY 42141

*Cincinnati Bell Telephone Company LL Cincinnati Bell Telephone Company LLC 221 E Fourth Street, Room 103-1080 Cincinnati, OH 45201-2301 *Thacker-Grigsby Telephone Company, I Thacker-Grigsby Telephone Company, 60 Communications Lane P. O. Box 789 Hindman, KY 41822 *CityNet Kentucky, LLC CityNet Kentucky, LLC 3600 University Avenue Morgantown, WV 26505

*Alexander Statsky Telrite Corporation 4113 Monticello Street Covington, GA 30014 *IBFA Acquisition Company, LLC IBFA Acquisition Company, LLC 353 Sacramento Street Suite 1500 San Francisco, CA 94111 *Simple Signal, Inc. Simple Signal, Inc. 34232 Pacific Coast Highway Suite E Dana Point, CA 92629

*L Allyson Honaker Goss Samford, PLLC 2365 Harrodsburg Road, Suite B325 Lexington, KENTUCKY 40504 *Armstrong Telecommunications, Inc. Armstrong Telecommunications, Inc. One Armstrong Place Butler, PA 16001 *R. Brooks Herrick Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP 101 South Fifth Street Suite 2500 Louisville, KENTUCKY 40202

*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

*Tempo Telecom, LLC Tempo Telecom, LLC 3060 Peachtree Road NW, Suite 1065 Atlanta, GA 30305 *Leslie County Telephone Company, Inc Leslie County Telephone Company, Inc. 24014 Highway 421 P. O. Box 969 Hyden, KY 41749

*Pix Wireless, LLC Pix Wireless, LLC 21346 Saint Andrews Blvd, Suite 225 Boca Raton, FL 33433 *Tempo Telecom, LLC Tempo Telecom, LLC 3060 Peachtree Road NW, Suite 1065 Atlanta, GA 30305 *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 *KDDI America, Inc. KDDI America, Inc. 7 Teleport Drive Staten Island, NY 10311 *Honorable Douglas F Brent Attorney at Law Stoll Keenon Ogden, PLLC 2000 PNC Plaza 500 W Jefferson Street Louisville, KENTUCKY 40202-2828

*Brandenburg Telecom, LLC Brandenburg Telecom, LLC 200 Telco Drive Brandenburg, KY 40108 *Cheryl Winn Waters Law Group, PLLC 12802 Townepark Way, Suite 200 Louisville, KENTUCKY 40243 *Blue Jay Wireless, LLC Blue Jay Wireless, LLC 4240 International Pkwy, Suite 140 Carrollton, TX 75007

*Brandenburg Telephone Company, Inc. Brandenburg Telephone Company, Inc. 200 Telco Road P. O. Box 599 Brandenburg, KY 40108 *Highland Telephone Cooperative, Inc. Highland Telephone Cooperative, Inc. 7840 Morgan County Highway P. O. Box 119 Sunbright, TN 37872 *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

*David S Samford Goss Samford, PLLC 2365 Harrodsburg Road, Suite B325 Lexington, KENTUCKY 40504 *Eric Schimpf Global Connection Inc. of America 5555 Oakbrook Pkwy, Suite 620 Norcross, GA 30093

*Telecommunication Properties, Inc. Telecommunication Properties, Inc. 3030 Warrenville Road, Suite 340 Lisle, IL 60532 *Cumberland Cellular, LLC dba Duo Bro Cumberland Cellular, LLC dba Duo Broadband 2150 N Main Street P. O. Box 80 Jamestown, KY 41269 *Logan Telephone Cooperative, Inc. db Logan Telephone Cooperative, Inc. dba LTC 10725 Bowling Green Road P. O. Box 97 Auburn, KY 42206

*ExteNet Systems, Inc. ExteNet Systems, Inc. 3030 Warrenville Road, Suite 340 Lisle, IL 60532 *Douglas E Hart 441 Vine Street, Suite 4192 Cincinnati, OHIO 45202 *Patriot Mobile LLC Patriot Mobile LLC 3341 Regent Blvd, Suite 130-352 Irving, TX 75063

*Velocity, A Managed Services Company Velocity, A Managed Services Company, Inc. 7130 Spring Meadows Drive West Holland, OH 43528 *AmeriMex Communications Corp. dba SafetyNet AmeriMex Communications Corp. dba SafetyNet 2323 Curlew Road, Suite 7B Dunedin, FL 34698 *Cumberland Cellular Partnership d/b/a Bluegrass Cumberland Cellular Partnership d/b/a Bluegrass 2902 Ring Road P. O. Box 5012 Elizabethtown, KY 42701 *Kentucky RSA #3 Cellular General Partnership, Kentucky RSA #3 Cellular General Partnership, 2902 Ring Road P. O. Box 5012 Elizabethtown, KY 42701 *BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC db BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC dba AT&T Meidinger Tower 462 S 4th Street, Suite 2400 Louisville, KY 40202 *MCImetro Access Transmission Service d/b/a MCImetro Access Transmission Services Corp. 600 Hidden Ridge Irving, TX 75038

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

*AT&T Corp.
AT&T Corp.
Meidinger Tower
462 S 4th Street, Suite 2400
Louisville, KY 40202

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

*Bluegrass Wireless, LLC Bluegrass Wireless, LLC 2902 Ring Road P. O. Box 5012 Elizabethtown, KY 42701 *Teleport Communications America, LLC Teleport Communications America, LLC Meidinger Tower 462 S 4th Street, Suite 2400 Louisville, KY 40202 *QuantumShift Communications, Inc. dba vCom QuantumShift Communications, Inc. dba vCom 12657 Alcosta Blvd, Suite 418 San Ramon, CA 94583

*NetDiverse, LLC NetDiverse, LLC 825 North 300 West, Suite C-149 Salt Lake City, UT 84103 *BellSouth Long Distance, Inc. dba AT BellSouth Long Distance, Inc. dba AT&T Long 462 S 4th Street, Suite 2400 Louisville, KY 40202 *Inter-Mountain Cable, Inc. dba MTS C Inter-Mountain Cable, Inc. dba MTS 20 Laynesville Road P. O. Box 160 Harold, KY 41635

*BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC db BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC dba AT&T Meidinger Tower 462 S 4th Street, Suite 2400 Louisville, KY 40202 *Image Access, Inc. dba NewPhone Image Access, Inc. dba NewPhone 7324 Southwest Freeway, Suite 475 Houston, TX 77074 *Gearheart Communications Company, In dba Gearheart Communications Company, Inc. dba 20 Laynesville Road Harold, KY 41635

*Cricket Wireless, LLC Cricket Wireless, LLC 1010 N St Mary's Street, 9th Floor San Antonio, TX 78215 *Calla Dunlap 1725 Windward Concourse, Suite 150 Alpharetta, GEORGIA 30005 *e-Tel, LLC dba e-Tel/Murray, LLC e-Tel, LLC dba e-Tel/Murray, LLC 1515 Broadway Paducah, KY 42001

*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 *Jack W. Pruitte dba First Phone Jack W. Pruitte dba First Phone 3281-C Fort Campbell Blvd P. O. Box 504 Clarksville, TN 37042 *South Central Telcom, LLC South Central Telcom, LLC 1399 Happy Valley Road P. O. Box 159 Glasgow, KY 42142-0159 *South Central Rural Telecommunicatio South Central Rural Telecommunications 1399 Happy Valley Road P. O. Box 159 Glasgow, KY 42142 *John E Selent Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP 101 South Fifth Street Suite 2500 Louisville, KENTUCKY 40202 *T.V. Service, Incorporated T.V. Service, Incorporated 2742 Hwy 550 E Hindman, KY 41822

*Wireless Telecom Cooperative, Inc. d Wireless Telecom Cooperative, Inc. dba 2317 West Chestnut Street Louisville, KY 40211 *North Central Telephone Cooperative, North Central Telephone Cooperative, Inc. 872 Highway 52 By-Pass E P. O. Box 70 Lafayette, TN 37083-0070 *Ballard Rural Telephone Cooperative Ballard Rural Telephone Cooperative Corporation, 159 W 2nd Street P. O. Box 209 La Center, KY 42056-0209

*Wireless Telecom Cooperative, Inc. d Wireless Telecom Cooperative, Inc. dba 2317 West Chestnut Street Louisville, KY 40211 *North Central Communications, Inc. North Central Communications, Inc. 872 Highway 52 By-Pass E P. O. Box 70 Lafayette, TN 37083 *Kathryn A Eckert McBrayer PLLC 201 East Main Street Suite 900 Lexington, KENTUCKY 40507

*Communications Venture Corporation d/b/a Communications Venture Corporation d/b/a 1616 Directors Row Fort Wayne, IN 46808 *SpeedBeam Lexington, LLC SpeedBeam Lexington, LLC 3070 Lakecrest Circle Lexington, KY 40513 *Peoples Rural Telephone Cooperative Peoples Rural Telephone Cooperative Highway 421 South P. O. Box 159 McKee, KY 40447

*France Telecom Corporate Solutions L France Telecom Corporate Solutions L.L.C. 13865 Sunrise Valley Drive Coppermine Commons Building #2, Suite 425 Herndon, VA 20171

*Timberline Specialized Management, L Timberline Specialized Management, LLC 5271 Memorial Drive, Suite 200 Houston, TX 77007 *Peoples Telecom, LLC Peoples Telecom, LLC 259 Main Street P. O. Box 159 McKee, KY 40447

*France Telecom Corporate Solutions L France Telecom Corporate Solutions L.L.C. 13865 Sunrise Valley Drive Coppermine Commons Building #2, Suite 425 Herndon, VA 20171 *Julie Skipworth South Central Rural Telecommunications 1399 Happy Valley Road P. O. Box 159 Glasgow, KY 42141 *Telrite Corporation Telrite Corporation 4113 Monticello Street Covington, GA 30014

*Bluegrass Telephone Company, Inc. dba Bluegrass Telephone Company, Inc. dba 101 Mill Street Leitchfield, KY 42754 *Justin M. McNeil Office of the Attorney General Office of Rate 700 Capitol Avenue Suite 20 Frankfort, KENTUCKY 40601-8204 *Telrite Corporation Telrite Corporation 4113 Monticello Street Covington, GA 30014 *West Kentucky Rural Telephone Cooper dba West Kentucky Rural Telephone Cooperative 100 WK&T Technology Drive P. O. Box 649 Mayfield, KY 42066-0649 *Budget Prepay, Inc. dba Budget Phone Budget Prepay, Inc. dba Budget Phone 1325 Barksdale Blvd, Suite 200 Bossier City, LA 71111 *Luke Morgan McBrayer PLLC 201 East Main Street Suite 900 Lexington, KENTUCKY 40507

*BCN Telecom, Inc. BCN Telecom, Inc. 1200 Mt. Kemble Ave, 3rd Floor Morristown, NJ 07960 *Budget PrePay, Inc. dba Budget Mobil Budget PrePay, Inc. dba Budget Mobile 1325 Barksdale Blvd, Suite 200 Bossier City, LA 71111 *Honorable Lance Steinhart Attorney At Law 1725 Windward Concourse Suite 150 Alpharetta, GEORGIA 30005

*BCN Telecom, Inc. BCN Telecom, Inc. 1200 Mt. Kemble Ave, 3rd Floor Morristown, NJ 07960 *Ready Wireless, LLC Ready Wireless, LLC 955 Kacena Road, Suite A Hiawatha, IA 52233 *TAG Mobile, LLC TAG Mobile, LLC 701 East Plano Parkway Suite 408 Plano, TX 75074

*Eastern Telephone & Technologies Eastern Telephone & Technologies 106 Power Drive Pikeville, KY 41501 *Larry Cook Assistant Attorney General Office of the Attorney General Office of Rate 700 Capitol Avenue Suite 20 Frankfort, KENTUCKY 40601-8204 *CampusSims, Inc. CampusSims, Inc. 361 Newbury Street, 5th Floor Boston, MA 02115

*The People's Operator USA, LLC The People's Operator USA, LLC 915 Broadway, Suite 1306 New York, NY 10010 *ATC Outdoor DAS, LLC ATC Outdoor DAS, LLC 116 Huntington Avenue, 11th Floor Boston, MA 02116 *Kentucky Hearing and Telephone Corpo d/b/a Kentucky Hearing and Telephone Corporation 5070 Mark IV Parkway Fort Worth, TX 76106

*Katherine Yunker McBrayer PLLC 201 East Main Street Suite 900 Lexington, KENTUCKY 40507 *East Kentucky Network, LLC dba Appal East Kentucky Network, LLC dba Appalachian 101 Technology Trail Ivel, KY 41642 *American Broadband and Telecommunica American Broadband and Telecommunications 1 Seagate, Suite 600 Toledo, OH 43699

*Alltel Corporation d/b/a Verizon Wir Alltel Corporation d/b/a Verizon Wireless 2200 Cabot Drive, Suite 400 Lisle, IL 60532 *East Kentucky Network, LLC East Kentucky Network, LLC 101 Technology Trail Ivel, KY 41642 *American Broadband and Telecommunica American Broadband and Telecommunications 1 Seagate, Suite 600 Toledo, OH 43699 *SelecTel, Inc. d/b/a SelecTel Wirele SelecTel, Inc. d/b/a SelecTel Wireless 1825 N Bell Street Fremont, NE 40504 *ComTech 21, LLC ComTech 21, LLC One Barnes Park South Wallingford, CT 06492 *Lycamobile USA, Inc. Lycamobile USA, Inc. 24 Commerce Street, Suite 100 Newark, NJ 07102

*Windward Wireless LLC Windward Wireless LLC 3245 Peachtree Pkwy, Suite D Suwanee, GA 30024 *dishNet Wireline, LLC dishNet Wireline, LLC 9601 S Meridian Blvd Englewood, CO 80155 *Beaver Telecom, LLC Beaver Telecom, LLC 1509 McDuffie Street Houston, TX 77019

*Windward Wireless LLC Windward Wireless LLC 3245 Peachtree Pkwy, Suite D Suwanee, GA 30024 *Magna5 LLC Magna5 LLC 3001 Dallas Pkwy, Suite 610 Frisco, TX 75034 *Vonage Business Networks, Inc. Vonage Business Networks, Inc. 23 Main Street Holmdel, NJ 07733

*Phone Club Corporation Phone Club Corporation 4262 Old A1A Palm Coast, FL 32137 *Boomerang Wireless, LLC Boomerang Wireless, LLC 955 Kacena Road, Suite A Hiawatha, IA 52233 *Foothills Rural Telephone Cooperativ Foothills Rural Telephone Cooperative 1621 Kentucky Route 40 W P. O. Box 240 Staffordsville, KY 41256

*Mountain Rural Telephone Cooperative Mountain Rural Telephone Cooperative 425 Main Street, Suite 1 P. O. Box 399 West Liberty, KY 41472 *Total Call Mobile, Inc.
Total Call Mobile, Inc.
1411 W 190th Street, Suite 650
Gardena, CA 90248

*Cellular Services, LLC Cellular Services, LLC 1621 KY Route 40W P. O. Box 240 Staffordsville, KY 41256

*Q Link Wireless, LLC Q Link Wireless, LLC 499 East Sheridan Street, Suite 400 Dania, FL 33004 *Touchtone Communications, Inc. Touchtone Communications, Inc. 3 Wing Drive, Suite 103 Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927 *TracFone Wireless, Inc. TracFone Wireless, Inc. 9700 NW 112th Avenue Miami, FL 33178

*BetterWorld Telecom, LLC BetterWorld Telecom, LLC 11951 Freedom Drive, 13th Floor Reston, VA 20190 *Touchtone Communications, Inc. Touchtone Communications, Inc. 3 Wing Drive, Suite 103 Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927 *IM Telecom, LLC d/b/a Infiniti Mobil IM Telecom, LLC d/b/a Infiniti Mobile 13601 Preston Road, Suite 816E Dallas, TX 75240 *i-Wireless, LLC i-Wireless, LLC 1 Levee Way, Suite 3104 Newport, KY 41071 *US LEC of Tennessee, LLC US LEC of Tennessee, LLC 4001 N Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212 *Windstream Communications, LLC Windstream Communications, LLC 4001 N Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212

*Crexendo Business Solutions, Inc. Crexendo Business Solutions, Inc. 1615 S 52nd Street Tempe, AZ 85281 *Windstream Kentucky West, LLC Windstream Kentucky West, 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

*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 *Windstream NuVox, LLC Windstream NuVox, 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

*Consumer Cellular, Incorporated Consumer Cellular, Incorporated 12447 SW 69th Avenue Portland, OR 97223 *Talk America, LLC Talk America, 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

*OneTone Telecom, Inc. OneTone Telecom, Inc. 100 Century Plaza Suite 9-1 Seneca, SC 29672 *Network Telephone, LLC Network Telephone, 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

*NextGen Communications, Inc. NextGen Communications, Inc. 2401 Elliott Avenue, Suite 200 Seattle, WA 98121 *McLeodUSA Telecommunications Service McLeodUSA Telecommunications Services, LLC 4001 N Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212 *Cellco Partnership dba Verizon Wirel Cellco Partnership dba Verizon Wireless One Verizon Way, Mailcode VC53S309D Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

*Windstream Norlight, LLC Windstream Norlight, LLC 4001 Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212 *The Other Phone Company, LLC The Other Phone Company, LLC 4001 N Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212 *Verizon Americas LLC dba Verizon Wir Verizon Americas LLC dba Verizon Wireless One Verizon Way, Mailcode VC53S309D Basking Ridge, NJ 07920 *Kentucky RSA #1 Partnership Kentucky RSA #1 Partnership One Verizon Way, Mailcode VC53S309D Basking Ridge, NJ 07920 *Ted Heckman Managing Director, Regulatory & Government Cincinnati Bell Telephone Company LLC 221 E Fourth Street, Room 103-1080 Cincinnati, OH 45201-2301

*New Par dba Verizon Wireless New Par dba Verizon Wireless One Verizon Way, Mailcode VC53S309D Basking Ridge, NJ 07920 *Wild Telecommunications, Inc. Wild Telecommunications, Inc. 220 Greenbriar Road Lexington, KY 40503

*Rural Cellular Corporation dba Verizon Wireless Rural Cellular Corporation dba Verizon Wireless One Verizon Way, Mailcode VC53S309D Basking Ridge, NJ 07920 *MuniNet Fiber Agency MuniNet Fiber Agency 1500 Broadway Street Paducah, KY 42001

*Kynect Communications, LLC Kynect Communications, LLC 14675 Dallas Parkway, Suite 150 Dallas, TX 75254 *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

*Win.Net Telecommunications, Inc. Win.Net Telecommunications, Inc. 332 W Broadway, Suite 214 Louisville, KY 40202 *Edward T Depp Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP 101 South Fifth Street Suite 2500 Louisville, KENTUCKY 40202

*Easy Telephone Service Company dba E Easy Telephone Service Company dba Easy 4352 SE 95th Street Ocala, FL 34480 *Duo County Telephone Cooperative Cor Duo County Telephone Cooperative Corporation, 2150 N Main Street P. O. Box 80 Jamestown, KY 42629

*Solavei, LLC Solavei, LLC 10500 NE 8th Street, Suite 1300 Bellevue, WA 98004 *Velocity Networks of Kentucky, Inc. Velocity Networks of Kentucky, Inc. 5550 77 Center Drive, Suite 220 Charlotte, NC 28217