COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVIC	CE COMMISSION	RECEIVED	
In the Matter of:)	JUN 1 0 2011	
DANA BOWERS)	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION	
COMPLAINANT)) CASE NO. 201		
v.))		
WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, LLC)		
DEFENDANT)		

WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, LLC'S MOTION FOR CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT

Windstream Kentucky East, LLC ("Windstream East") moves the Commission, pursuant to KRS 61.878(1)(c)(1) and 807 KAR 5:001, Section 7, for an Order granting confidential treatment to information included in the direct testimony of Stephen Weeks filed on behalf of Windstream East. Specifically, Windstream East seeks confidential treatment of business information identified on page 7 of the testimony and also customer information in Exhibit B to Mr. Weeks' testimony. The former identifies internal information regarding Windstream East's business operations, and the latter, Exhibit B, is a copy of a complete invoice issued by Windstream East to Dana Bowers, the Complainant in this action.

- 1. The information for which confidential treatment is being sought ("Confidential Information") includes business operational information internal to Windstream East and customer proprietary network information ("CPNI") of Mrs. Bowers.
- 2. Windstream East is filing an original version of Mr. Weeks' testimony, with the unredacted information under seal with this motion. Windstream East seeks confidential treatment of all of the information contained in Exhibit B. Accordingly, Windstream East is not

highlighting the information for which it seeks confidential treatment or filing redacted copies of Exhibit B (which would just be blank pages in this instance). Windstream East understands that this approach is consistent with the Commission's established practice. Windstream East's unredacted version will highlight the confidential business operational information contained in Mr. Weeks' testimony, and the copies will have that information redacted.

Statutory Standard

- 3. KRS 61.878 excludes from the public disclosure requirements of the Open Records Act the following information:
 - "Public records containing information of a personal nature where the public disclosure thereof would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;" 1
 - "[R]ecords confidentially disclosed to an agency or required by an agency to be disclosed to it, generally recognized as confidential or proprietary, which if openly disclosed would permit an unfair commercial advantage to competitors of the entity that disclosed the records."²

The Confidential Information at issue in this motion satisfies this exception to Kentucky's Open Records Act.

The Information is of a Personal Nature and Disclosure would Constitute an Unwarranted Invasion of Privacy

4. The information contained in Exhibit B to Mr. Weeks' testimony includes CPNI. Specifically, Exhibit B includes Mrs. Bowers' account number and telephone number, along with the services purchased by Mrs. Bowers from Windstream East and the amount Windstream East charged her for those services. Additionally, Exhibit B sets forth the total Windstream East charges to Mrs. Bowers for the period at issue in the invoice, including her service rates and applicable taxes, surcharges, and fees. This information is protected from disclosure to third

¹ KRS 61.878(1)(a).

² KRS 61.878(1)(c)(1).

parties by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and by subsequent orders issued by the Federal Communications Commission.

The Information is Generally Recognized as Confidential and Proprietary and Disclosure Will Result in an Unfair Commercial Advantage to Windstream East's competitors.

- 5. The information contained on page 7 of Mr. Weeks' testimony includes_internal information regarding Windstream East's business operations. This information is generally considered confidential and is maintained as such by Windstream East. This information is not available to, or ascertainably by, persons outside Windstream East by proper means other than on a confidential basis.
- 6. In light of the confidential and proprietary nature of the information at issue, Windstream East takes all reasonable efforts to protect it from public disclosure. These measures include limiting access to the information within Windstream East to only those persons with a legitimate need to access the information and protecting the information against disclosure outside Windstream East.
- 7. The confidential information included on page 7 of Mr. Weeks' testimony, if disclosed to competitors of Windstream East, would provide an unfair competitive advantage to those competitors by offering them otherwise-unavailable commercial evidence about Windstream East's market position. This information about Windstream East and other carriers is not public, and disclosure of the information in this proceeding will cause Windstream East to suffer a competitive economic injury.
- 8. The information at issue in this motion is regularly afforded confidential treatment by the Commission and Windstream East simply asks for the same treatment in this instance.

Respectfully submitted,

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COUNSEL FOR WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY

EAST, LLC

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, LLC'S MOTION FOR CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT was served by United States First Class Mail, postage prepaid, on this 10th day of June, 2011 upon:

Kent Hatfield Douglas F. Brent Deborah T. Eversole STOLL KEENON OGDEN, PLLC 2000 PNC Plaza 500 West Jefferson Street Louisville, Kentucky 40202 J.E.B Pinney
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Counsel for Windstream Kentucky East, LLC

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JUN 1 0 2011 COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION COMMISSION In the Matter of:) Dana Bowers, Complainant Case No. 2010-00447 Windstream Kentucky East, LLC, Defendant **DIRECT TESTIMONY** OF STEPHEN WEEKS ON BEHALF OF WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, LLC Filed June 10, 2011

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF STEPHEN WEEK

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- 3 Q. Please state your name and business address.
- 4 A. My name is Stephen Weeks. My business address is 4001 Rodney Parham Road, Little
- 5 Rock, Arkansas, 72212.
- 6 Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?
- 7 A. I am employed by Windstream Communications, Inc. as Director of Wholesale Services
- 8 and in this capacity have authority to present this testimony on behalf of Windstream
- 9 Kentucky East, LLC ("Windstream East").
- 10 Q. Please describe your experience in the telecommunications industry and at
- 11 Windstream.
- 12 A. I began my telecommunications career in 1994 with ALLTEL Corporation, serving in
- various managerial positions in wireless field operations including Vice President /
- General Manager. Since 1999, I have served in various managerial positions at corporate
- headquarters in Little Rock and was named Director of Wholesale Services in 2003. My
- responsibilities over the last twelve years have included functions such as negotiating
- inter-carrier agreements, managing inter-carrier relationships and, as of February 2008,
- overseeing the persons responsible for maintaining our local subscriber tariffs and price
- lists. I am not an attorney, and while I may have to refer to portions of Kentucky law in
- 20 my testimony, I reserve the legal arguments in this proceeding for my counsel.
- 21 Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?
- 22 A. My testimony will show that the claims set forth by Dana Bowers ("Mrs. Bowers" or
- 23 "Plaintiff") in her Petition for Declaratory Ruling filed on November 16, 2010

1	("Complaint") are in error regarding the Gross Receipts Surcharge ("GRS") assessed by
2	Windstream East.

Q. Please provide an overview of your testimony.

The crux of Mrs. Bowers' allegations is that Windstream East violated KRS 278.160 "when it charged her, and its other customers, an unfiled rate for telecommunications services provided under tariff." (Complaint p. 1) The purported "unfiled rate for telecommunications services" to which she refers is the GRS. Mrs. Bowers contends that this is a simple issue that the GRS is a rate for service that was required to have been but was not tariffed in Windstream East's local tariff. She is wrong on all accounts, and the simple response to her allegations is as follows:

1. Mrs. Bowers does not purchase services subject to KRS 278.160;

- 2. Regardless of what services she purchases, Mrs. Bowers did not comply either with (a) the dispute provisions in the very tariff on which she bases her claims or (b) similar dispute provisions in the terms that govern her nonbasic services; and
- 3. Windstream East was not required to tariff the GRS and otherwise has precautionary tariff language sufficiently addressing the GRS.

My testimony will demonstrate that no matter how you view the GRS, it is not an unfiled rate for service that was required to be tariffed.

Q. How did Mrs. Bowers' Complaint come to be filed with the Commission?

A. A class action lawsuit was filed on her behalf generally claiming that the GRS is an "illegal rate" that was required to be tariffed. (Class Action Complaint, Paragraph 1, "lawsuit".) As a part of the lawsuit, the federal court referred one of Mrs. Bowers' claims

to the Commission. That claim, as Mrs. Bowers filed it in her Complaint with the Commission, pertains to whether Windstream East was required to have tariffed the GRS in its local tariff before applying the GRS to Mrs. Bowers' services she purchases from Windstream East. The answer to that question is no.

What action is Windstream East asking the Commission to take in this proceeding?

We are requesting that the Commission deny Mrs. Bowers' claims in her Complaint including finding specifically that the GRS is not a rate for a telecommunications service that is subject to the Commission's mandatory tariff regime in KRS 278.160. The Commission should find that Mrs. Bowers does not subscribe to any jurisdictional services subject to KRS 278.160. Further, the Commission should find that even as to jurisdictional services, the assessment of the GRS is not required to be tariffed, and Windstream East's precautionary tariff language otherwise addresses the GRS. Finally, the Commission should find as a threshold matter that, in seeking to enforce Windstream East's tariff, Mrs. Bowers is required to have complied with all applicable provisions of the tariff including most notably the provisions for filing timely disputes.

Q.

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Mrs. Bowers' Services

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Q. What general category of customer is Mrs. Bowers?

A. Mrs. Bowers is a residential customer of Windstream East. When asked to acknowledge that she does not purchase any services from Windstream East under Tariff No. 8 (its intrastate access tariff), Mrs. Bowers refused to admit the response but failed to identify any access services purchased under that tariff. She did, however, acknowledge that she

- is not a telecommunications provider or a business customer of Windstream East which
- 2 supports that she does not purchase any intrastate access services from Windstream East.
- 3 Mrs. Bowers also admitted that she at no time has subscribed to services from
- Windstream Kentucky West, LLC or Windstream Communications, Inc. (Requests for
- 5 Admission Nos. 1-6.)
- 6 Q. What services does Mrs. Bowers purchase from Windstream East?
- 7 A. During all relevant time periods, Mrs. Bowers has purchased Windstream East's
- 8 residential local service as part of the "Feature Pack A" telephone service, DSL Ultra
- broadband services, and DSL Protection Plus wire maintenance plan.
- 10 Q. Does Mrs. Bowers purchase "basic local exchange service" from Windstream East?
- 11 A. No. That term is defined to refer specifically to stand-alone residential or business
- telephone service that provides only for unlimited calls within Windstream East's local
- exchange area, dual-tone multifrequency dialing, and access to the following: emergency
- 14 911 telephone service, all locally available long distance companies, directory assistance,
- operator services, relay services, and a standard alphabetical directory listing. The term
- also encompasses certain mandatory extended area service routes.
- 17 Q. What do you mean by the terms "stand-alone" telephone service and service that
- provides "only" for the functions listed above?
- 19 A. These terms are used to distinguish basic local exchange service from other nonbasic
- services. Basic dial-tone residential or business service is that which is not bundled or
- 21 packaged with any other service(s) and service that instead provides only for those
- functions I listed above. For example, if a customer has a basic phone line without any
- other features like Call Waiting or Caller ID or without any other services, that customer

has basic local exchange service. On the other hand, if a customer has a basic phone line with features like Call Forwarding and Call Waiting or other service like broadband, then she has nonbasic services.

Q. Does Mrs. Bowers purchase stand-alone basic local exchange service from Windstream East that provides only the functions you identified?

No. Mrs. Bowers purchases nonbasic service from Windstream East - not basic local exchange service. Mrs. Bowers, like the overwhelming majority of our customers, purchases local service that is packaged or bundled with other products and services like broadband and/or calling features. Therefore, Mrs. Bowers' services include functions well beyond those I identified above that comprise only basic local exchange service. Mrs. Bowers acknowledged in her discovery responses that she purchases local service that provides the functions listed above, but that she also purchases additional services including packaged calling options, broadband service, and Protection Plus. (Requests for Admission Nos. 7 and 8.) The partial June 14, 2010 invoice Mrs. Bowers attached to her Complaint also reflects that she does not purchase only a basic local telephone line from Windstream East. (Complaint, Exhibit C.) Consistent with her own exhibit, Mrs. Bowers purchases two residential phone lines that are each packaged with the "Feature Pack A" calling option services. These packaged calling features permit Mrs. Bowers' residential phone lines to perform functions well in excess of the ones I identified for basic local exchange service. For instance, her calling features include functions such as anonymous call rejection, automatic busy redial, call return, call block, call forwarding, call waiting, Caller ID, selective call acceptance, and three-way calling. Additionally, her invoice reflects that she purchases "DSL Ultra-Renewal" and "DSL-Protection Plus." (Id.)

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- Because she purchases these additional features and services, Mrs. Bowers' service is categorized as nonbasic and not as basic local exchange service.
- 3 Q. What is the significance of whether Mrs. Bowers purchases basic local exchange
 4 service or nonbasic service?
- 5 I will leave the detailed legal discussions to the parties' attorneys, but I will note that A. distinguishing between the types of services Mrs. Bowers purchases from Windstream 6 East is critical in determining what type of legal obligations may apply to the services 7 and specifically whether there is any validity to her claims regarding her purchase of 8 9 alleged jurisdictional services subject to KRS 278.160. (See, Complaint, Paragraphs 5-7.) A "basic local exchange service", as that term is defined by the General Assembly, may 10 be considered for now a "jurisdictional service" subject to certain tariffing requirements, 11 while nonbasic services like those purchased by Mrs. Bowers are "nonjurisdictional 12 13 services" and exempt from such requirements.
- Q. What percentage of Windstream East's residential customers purchase jurisdictional basic local exchange service?
- A. Only approximately of Windstream East's residential customers purchase jurisdictional service. The vast majority of our customers in today's competitive environment purchase nonbasic (*i.e.*, nonjurisdictional) services primarily in the form of bundled services that are detariffed and have been since December 1, 2008 when Windstream East filed with the Commission to remove the bundle from its local tariff.
- 21 Q. Does Mrs. Bowers purchase any jurisdictional service?
- A. No. In her Responses to Requests for Admission, Mrs. Bowers incorrectly denies that she purchases no jurisdictional services from Windstream East. (Request for Admission No.

- 5.) Based on Mrs. Bowers' admissions, she purchases local service that is packaged with other services including calling features, broadband, and Protection Plus. (Requests for Admission Nos. 7-8 and Complaint, Paragraph 7.) Thus, she does not purchase any jurisdictional service from Windstream East despite her failure to admit it.
- Despite the foregoing, do you know why Mrs. Bowers seems to believe that she purchases jurisdictional service from Windstream East?
- A. She appears to believe that because the individual components of her packaged service (i.e., her residential lines and Feature Pack A calling options) are identified in Windstream East's local tariff (Tariff No. 7) that they are jurisdictional services.
- 10 O. Is that assertion correct?
- 11 A. No. It is correct that the services are identified in Windstream East's Tariff No. 7 but not
 12 that they are jurisdictional services.
- 13 Q. Can you please explain?
- 14 The individual components of Mrs. Bowers' packaged services are identified in A. Windstream East's Tariff No. 7. Specifically, the residential lines (a total service rate to 15 16 Mrs. Bowers of \$34.14 per month) are identified in Section S3 - Basic Local Exchange Service of Tariff No. 7 at a flat service rate of \$17.07 per line in the Elizabethtown 17 exchange. The optional calling features with which those basic residential lines are 18 packaged (a total service rate to Mrs. Bowers of \$32.00 per month) are identified in 19 Section S13 – Miscellaneous Service Arrangements of Tariff No. 7 at a monthly service 20 rate of \$16.00 per package. However, the fact that these packaged components are 21 22 identified in Windstream East's Tariff No. 7 does not make them jurisdictional services.

- 1 Q. If the package components purchased by Mrs. Bowers are identified in Windstream 2 East's tariff, why then are those components not considered jurisdictional services?
- A. The answer involves an understanding of actions taken by the General Assembly in 2006 to make nonbasic services – including packaged services like those purchased by Mrs. Bowers - subject to greater regulatory flexibility. The historical mandatory tariff requirements for jurisdictional services in KRS 278.160 upon which Mrs. Bowers bases her claims apply to all types of utilities operating under the Commission's oversight. However, as far back as 2006 the General Assembly recognized that telephone utilities were subject to significant marketplace competition that mitigated the need for the same continued administrative oversight. As a result, the General Assembly enacted provisions designed to substitute the Commission's administrative oversight over telephone utilities (including historical tarriffing regulations) with marketplace oversight in the form of pricing and tariffing flexibility. In doing so, the General Assembly granted all telephone 14 utilities in Kentucky rate and tariffing flexibility for nonbasic (or "nonjurisdictional") services – including exemption from KRS 278.160.

16 What were the new provisions enacted by the General Assembly? Q.

- The new provisions are set forth primarily in KRS 278.544, but I refer to my attorneys to 17 A. 18 address the legalities of the specific language in those provisions.
- 19 Q. What was the result of the new legislation?
- By exempting all telephone utilities from historical tariffing regulations like those in KRS 20 A. 21 278.160 for nonbasic services, telephone utilities (unlike other utilities whose industries 22 may not be subject to the same level of competition) were permitted greater flexibility 23 over the ways in which they offer nonbasic services to their customers. Telephone

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utilities like Windstream East are not required to maintain tariffs for nonjurisdictional services (but voluntarily may do so), and they now may provide those nonbasic services subject to their own company terms and conditions like Windstream East does with Mrs. Bowers.

Why then did the General Assembly still require individual packaged components to remain on file in tariffs with the Commission?

During the time the General Assembly was considering this flexibility for telephone utilities, there was concern about whether bundled options would be limited for consumers in the future or whether individual components of existing packages would still be made available to customers. Put another way, there was concern that customers still had a menu of existing feature options from which to choose. Consequently, certain packaged features continue to be identified individually in the telephone utility's tariffs. Specifically, packages comprised of optional calling features like those purchased by Mrs. Bowers that were tariffed and available on an individual basis as of February 1, 2006 have to continue to be identified in the tariff. At the same time, however, the General Assembly determined that regardless of these considerations, nonbasic services – including packages and their individual features – are governed exclusively by the marketplace and are exempt from KRS 278.160.

Q. What is the result of the General Assembly's actions as they relate to Mrs. Bowers'services?

A. The result is that packaged services like those purchased by Mrs. Bowers are nonjurisdictional, nonbasic services subject to marketplace pricing and Windstream East's terms and conditions regardless of whether the individual components (here, Mrs.

Q.

Bowers' residential lines and Feature Pack A calling options) are identified in any tariff. Accordingly, Mrs. Bowers' nonbasic services are governed by contractual arrangements she has with Windstream East, including the terms and conditions of service. Those terms include the condition that fees and surcharges may apply to her services and also the obligation that she timely dispute her charges within a month of receiving the invoice.

Application of the GRS to Customer Invoices

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Q. Are Mrs. Bowers' services subject to taxes, fees, and surcharges?

Yes. Mrs. Bowers' services, which I have established above are nonjurisdictional services subject to Windstream East's terms and conditions, are assessed various taxes, fees, and surcharges. Mrs. Bowers is also assessed what is called a subscriber line charge ("SLC") which appears on her bill as the "Access Charge Per FCC Order." While the SLC is a charge for "End User Access Service" established by the Federal Communications Commission, as this Kentucky Commission is likely aware, the SLC is a charge assessed incidental to a customer's local service and subject to the telephone utility's local billing arrangements with that customer. At issue in this proceeding is the application of one surcharge – the GRS – to customers' invoices, namely Mrs. Bowers' invoices.

Q. Is the GRS assessed on all items in Mrs. Bowers' monthly invoices?

A. No. The GRS is assessed on only those items on customers' bills, including those of Mrs.

Bowers, for which Windstream East is itself levied a tax on the corresponding revenues

from those items. Through our implementation of the GRS which I will discuss in greater

detail below, we assess the GRS to our customers on the same services and charges on

which Windstream East's revenues are taxed. Mrs. Bowers is assessed	the GRS on her
Feature Pack A and Protection Plus services and to certain of her other	charges like the
SLC. However, contrary to Mrs. Bowers' statements in Paragraph 7 of h	er Complaint the
GRS is not assessed to her broadband service.	**

Q. Is the GRS assessed to Windstream East's customers in the same percentage as the tax percentage levied on Windstream East's corresponding revenues?

No. The GRS is not a direct pass-through of a tax on customers and instead is a surcharge designed to help recover Windstream East's costs of the tax that is levied on Windstream East. The GRS assessed to Mrs. Bowers, therefore, has varied in amounts to enable Windstream East to recover the underlying costs of the tax. Plaintiff has misrepresented that the GRS "has been used by Windstream to collect approximately double the amount of the state tax that applies to communications service providers." (Complaint, Paragraph 13.) As with some other fees and surcharges, the GRS may vary depending on Windstream East's total underlying costs of the tax. There was also a significant period of time during which Windstream East's costs of the tax went unrecovered as a result of it (and other providers) being unconstitutionally precluded from collecting their costs of the tax in the form of a line item surcharge. We have not used the GRS to recover more than our costs of the gross revenues tax levied on us.

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Timely Dispute of the GRS

1 Q. When did Windstream East first begin applying the GRS to customers' invoices?

2 A. Windstream East first began applying the GRS to customers' invoices, including those of Mrs. Bowers, in their June 2007 invoices.

4 Q. Did any customers question the GRS when Windstream East implemented it?

Yes, customers did question the GRS including two residential customers like Mrs. Bowers. However, unlike Mrs. Bowers, these customers promptly reviewed their monthly invoices and filed timely inquiries and disputes regarding the GRS. (See Exhibit A.) The first customer filed an inquiry with Windstream on July 21, 2007 regarding charges he noticed on his invoice for the GRS and the universal service fee. A second customer used the Commission's informal complaint procedures to question Windstream East's authority to collect the GRS. In that instance, the Commission referred the informal complaint to Windstream East for resolution, and we resolved the complaint with the customer to the Commission's satisfaction.

Q. When did Mrs. Bowers first dispute the application of the GRS to her invoices?

Our records show that prior to her attorneys filing the lawsuit on her behalf on June 22, 2009, Mrs. Bowers had not filed any dispute or made any inquiry with Windstream East regarding the GRS even though it had been implemented two years prior. We sought information from Mrs. Bowers in discovery to confirm that she previously had not filed any complaints regarding the GRS with Windstream East. While refusing to respond directly and stating only that she brought the lawsuit (which again was in 2009), Mrs. Bowers did not refute Windstream East's records that prior to June 22, 2009, she had not inquired about or disputed the GRS with Windstream East and/or the Commission. (Request for Admission No. 14.) She did acknowledge that Windstream East began

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assessing the GRS two years prior to that in June 2007. (Request for Admission No. 12.)

Mrs. Bowers, nevertheless, failed to file a timely dispute of Windstream East's

application of the GRS to her invoices.

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A.

4 Q. What do you mean that Mrs. Bowers failed to "timely" file a dispute of the GRS?

I am referring to the fact that much more than one month passed from the time that Windstream East implemented the GRS and the time that Mrs. Bowers' attorneys filed the lawsuit disputing the GRS. Approximately two years had passed. As I explained above, Mrs. Bowers purchases nonbasic, nonjurisdictional services from Windstream East which are subject to a monthly term and Windstream East's terms and conditions. Included in those terms and conditions are the requirements that Mrs. Bowers be responsible for applicable taxes, surcharges, fees, and assessments — which includes the GRS — and that she submit timely disputes with respect to the charges on her monthly invoices.

Q. How are customers like Mrs. Bowers advised of these terms of service, including the timely dispute provisions?

Customers including Mrs. Bowers are informed of these terms in a variety of ways. To begin, certain terms are included with every monthly invoice customers receive from Windstream East. (An example of Mrs. Bowers' complete monthly invoice is attached as Exhibit B.) For instance, since before the time that Windstream East began assessing the GRS, Mrs. Bowers and other customers have received instructions with each of their monthly invoices stating that explanations of their rates and charges and information about how to verify the accuracy of a bill may be obtained by calling Windstream East's toll-free number or from a Windstream retail location. The instructional terms appear

directly above the explanations on the bill for various fees and surcharges like the GRS and advise on a monthly recurring basis of the need for customers like Mrs. Bowers to report any discrepancies in the bills within twenty days to assure prompt attention to the issue. Further, each monthly invoice references Windstream's website where the complete set of terms and conditions are located. A customer who refers to our website for service and product information also may access the terms and conditions of service directly. In June 2010, customer invoices also added language reminding customers that their use of the services provided by Windstream East constitutes their agreement to Windstream's terms and conditions.

I should also explain that customers frequently receive periodic bill messages or other bill inserts and letters explaining items on their bill and the applicability of various service terms. For instance, Mrs. Bowers and other customers received a bill message in their June 2007 invoices stating: "Effective with this billing statement, the Kentucky Gross Receipts Surcharge will begin appearing on your bill. This surcharge recovers a tax imposed by the State of Kentucky on all communications and entertainment providers." The message also instructed customers to call Windstream East's customer service if they had any questions about the surcharge, which Mrs. Bowers did not do. In addition to the bill message regarding the GRS, the sample bill inserts and letters attached as Exhibit C provide examples of the frequent notices that customers like Mrs. Bowers receive. These letters and inserts advise that Windstream's terms and conditions may apply to the services. Mrs. Bowers, who is a long-time Windstream East customer, received similar

- notices as far back as 2002 advising her of the website with information pertaining to her services. (See Exhibit D.)
- Q. Should Mrs. Bowers have been aware of these terms and conditions such as the applicability of surcharges and the need to timely dispute charges on her invoices?
 - Yes, based on the number of ways in which we communicate these terms to our customers. Although she does not recall receiving some of the notices as early as 2002 (Requests for Admission Nos. 19-20), Mrs. Bowers cannot deny receiving her invoices from Windstream East on a recurring monthly basis. As I explained above, her monthly invoices expressly reference her responsibility to timely dispute the charges on her bills. We attempted to obtain information to determine what other surcharges Mrs. Bowers has been assessed from her other utility and cable providers to determine whether she was aware of other surcharges assessed by those providers and also whether she had reviewed and/or disputed those providers' invoices. However, Mrs. Bowers declined to provide that information stating instead her position that the request was irrelevant, harassing, and burdensome. (Data Request No. 4.) We do not agree with that characterization and believe these facts would have supported that Mrs. Bowers should have known that she had a responsibility to timely review and dispute her utility providers' monthly invoices.
 - Q. Is it reasonable to expect Mrs. Bowers to have examined her monthly telephone bills and timely disputed the assessment of the GRS prior to her attorneys filing a lawsuit on her behalf two years later?
- A. Yes. As a threshold matter, Mrs. Bowers is precluded from challenging Windstream
 East's assessment of a surcharge more than two years after its implementation because
 she did not timely challenge the surcharge at the time Windstream East began assessing

it. Given that Mrs. Bowers disregarded the instructions on her monthly invoices for disputing the GRS and the terms of her service, the Commission should not allow her to do so now by virtue of a lawsuit her attorneys filed on her behalf two years later. In fact, in filings made in the lawsuit, Mrs. Bowers represented that she and her attorneys discussed her Windstream East bill in February 2009. (See Pls.' Reply in Support of Mot. for Class Cert., at 12.) Yet, if that is the case, even after that discussion, Mrs. Bowers did not file any dispute until the lawsuit was filed on her behalf four months later and instead continued paying her monthly invoices in full and without dispute.

Q. Should Mrs. Bowers be excused for failing to file a timely dispute regarding the GRS?

No, particularly where some customers did file timely disputes and Windstream had the opportunity to address those disputes. In her discovery responses, Mrs. Bowers stated that she believes that if she "fails to pay her bill from Windstream, which is issued monthly, Windstream will terminate her telephone service." (Request for Admission No. 9.) Her statement ignores the express instructions in her invoices - including the February 2009 invoice that her attorneys purportedly discussed with her as well as those in Tariff No. 7 for customers purchasing jurisdictional services (and which Mrs. Bowers is seeking to enforce in her Complaint) - that disputed charges may be withheld while the dispute is pending. Our experience is that most residential customers are knowledgeable about telecommunications charges and terms – many even frequently shopping offers among Windstream East and its competitors. They should not, therefore, be permitted to accept certain terms but not others, and Mrs. Bowers is no exception. She established a multimillion dollar internet company "ipay" that, according to one media source, operates

pursuant to contracts with its own customers. (See article attached as Exhibit E.) We also attempted in discovery to obtain information from Mrs. Bowers to determine if the contracts and processes she used with ipay's customers contain similar obligations about the need for customers to timely file disputes, but she also refused to provide this information. (Request for Production No. 2.) Nevertheless, even after purportedly discussing her invoice with her attorneys, Mrs. Bowers failed to timely examine her invoices and abide by her contractual terms with Windstream East including the provisions requiring timely dispute of her invoices within one month. She also acknowledges that she has never filed an informal complaint with the Commission. (Data Request No. 5.) She should not be permitted to now pursue challenges to the GRS – a surcharge that appeared on every one of her monthly invoices with dispute instructions – years after the initial assessment of the GRS.

13 Q. Are invoices for jurisdictional services also subject to a similar dispute provision?

A. Yes. Ironically, although Mrs. Bowers suggests incorrectly that she purchases jurisdictional services from Windstream East, she overlooks that the claims in her Complaint would also be precluded by her failure to abide by the dispute provisions in Windstream East's Tariff No. 7 which are similar to those I described above for nonbasic services. Even if Mrs. Bowers purchased jurisdictional services from Windstream East, her failure to file a timely dispute precludes her claim.

Q. What does Tariff No. 7 provide regarding disputes of invoices?

21 A. Windstream East's Tariff No. 7, Section S2.4.3 – Payment for Services provides that if a
22 written or verbal objection is not received by Windstream East within thirty days after the
23 bill is rendered, the customer's account shall be deemed correct and binding upon the

customer. The tariff provisions (like Windstream's terms and conditions) provide that if a customer disputes a bill, the customer may be required to pay the undisputed portion of the bill to avoid discontinuance of service. Also under the tariff provisions, if a dispute is not reconciled, then Windstream East will advise the customer that she may apply to the Commission for review and disposition of the dispute. To the extent that she claims to have invoices for jurisdictional services, Mrs. Bowers failed to follow these provisions of Tariff No. 7. As a threshold matter, Mrs. Bowers failed to honor her applicable billing dispute terms, and her claims should be denied.

- If Mrs. Bowers purchased jurisdictional services, should she be held responsible for complying with these dispute terms in the tariffs before bringing other tariff claims like those in the Complaint?
- A. Yes. Customers purchasing jurisdictional services should be responsible for complying with the timely dispute provisions in the tariffs. I should also reiterate that this is not a question of whether Mrs. Bowers filed a dispute of the GRS after it began appearing on each of her monthly invoices days or even weeks after the timely dispute provisions. Rather, she filed no dispute and made no inquiry regarding the GRS until two years after its implementation when her attorneys filed the lawsuit on her behalf. Mrs. Bowers did not even file a dispute within the four months preceding the lawsuit after she allegedly discussed her February 2009 bill with her attorneys. Yet, her Complaint centers around the Filed Rate Doctrine. While this issue will be discussed in greater detail by the attorneys in our briefs, I am not aware that in asserting the Filed Rate Doctrine, a complaining party like Mrs. Bowers is free to ignore certain tariff provisions simply because those provisions would preclude her claims.

Q.

1 Q .	Q.	Did Mrs. Bowers accept the dispute provisions in the terms and conditions and/or
2		the tariff?

Yes, through her continued purchase of services from Windstream East. Consistent with this Commission's decades of practice (and the lack of any regulations to the contrary), customers of utilities offering jurisdictional service (whether electric, gas, or telephone) accept the terms of the utility's tariff by continuing to purchase monthly the applicable service from the utility. Application of the tariff as it applies to jurisdictional service is key to the very Filed Rate Doctrine upon which Mrs. Bowers bases the claims in her Complaint. As I understand it, that doctrine does not allow a party like Mrs. Bowers to pick and chose which portions of the tariff she wants to enforce. As for Windstream's terms and conditions for nonjurisdictional services such as those purchased by Mrs. Bowers, they also provide that they apply when a customer purchases the services. In this instance, Windstream East did have customers who honored their applicable terms of service and filed timely disputes, but Mrs. Bowers did not. Therefore, whether viewed under the terms and conditions or the tariff, she should be precluded as a threshold matter from pursuing claims regarding the GRS years after the implementation of the GRS.

A.

The GRS and Tariff No. 7

Q. Assuming that Mrs. Bowers had filed a timely dispute and was allowed to pursue claims regarding the surcharge, what is the GRS that is the focus of the Complaint?
A. As explained in the bill message provided to Windstream East's customers at the time it was implemented in 2007, the GRS is a monthly surcharge assessed by Windstream East

to help recover its costs of a gross revenues tax levied on Windstream East by the Kentucky Department of Revenue. It is not, as Mrs. Bowers suggests, a rate for a telecommunications service. Rather, it is a surcharge applied to certain communications services designed to help recover Windstream East's costs of a tax levied on those same communications service revenues. I should mention, however, that if the GRS itself were to be construed as an actual rate for a telecommunications service, then it would be a rate for a nonbasic service because it does not meet the definition of a jurisdictional basic local exchange service discussed at the beginning of my testimony.

Q. Does Windstream East's Tariff No. 7 include such fees and surcharges as part of the actual rates for services to which the surcharges are assessed?

No. Tariff No. 7, which Plaintiff insists incorrectly is required to apply to her nonbasic services, does not include such taxes, fees, and surcharges in the actual rates for service. For example, various taxes, fees, and surcharges apply to Mrs. Bowers' Feature Pack A service, but the actual service rates for the package components identified in Tariff No. 7 are only the \$17.07 and \$16.00 service rates. Further, Mrs. Bowers is incorrect to the extent she asserts that the GRS amount is required to be listed in the tariff in a specific amount. Assuming that the GRS were even required to be on file in a tariff (which it is not), it is a surcharge and not required to be identified in the same manner as a specific rate amount. By way of example, 911 fees are surcharges and may vary by the municipality imposing the fee. Similarly, certain Lifeline credits which also may vary are not identified as specific rate amounts. Even under the Commission's historical rate-of-return ratemaking methodologies, fees and surcharges like franchise fees were not included in a telephone utility's rate base for purposes of determining an underlying

1	service rate. Instead, they were (and still are) treated as "additives" and not themselves an
2	actual rate for service.

Do telephone companies like Windstream East necessarily tariff with the Commission all taxes, fees, and surcharges that may apply to customers' communications bills, including any such fees that may apply to jurisdictional basic local exchange service?

No, particularly those fees and surcharges that are imposed outside the Commission's jurisdiction. For instance, I am not aware that Windstream East has ever tariffed or that the Commission has ever required that we tariff each franchise fee imposed directly by a municipality in Kentucky. Similarly, I am aware that many of the local exchange carriers in Kentucky do not tariff every (or any) 911 surcharge that may be imposed by various municipalities.

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A.

The GRS and Replacement of Municipal Franchise Fees

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- 16 Q. Why did Windstream East begin assessing the GRS to its customers?
- 17 A. On January 1, 2006, Kentucky eliminated franchise fees imposed directly on certain 18 providers like Windstream East by individual municipalities and began imposing a tax on 19 the gross revenues received by providers of communications services..
- Q. Did the General Assembly allow the providers to pass through the cost of the tax to their customers in the form of a surcharge?
- A. Not initially. Unlike its predecessor franchise fees that were passed through to customers in the form of a line item surcharge, the gross revenues tax statute, at its inception,

unconstitutionally barred providers from recovering the tax directly from their customers or separately stating the tax on bills to their customers; however, it did not prevent communications service providers generally from passing the costs of the tax through to their customers. Communications providers were allowed initially to pass through their costs of the tax but prevented from using a line item surcharge to do so.

- Q. What was the operational result of the unconstitutional ban on line item surcharges
 under the new statutory provision?
- A. The result for Windstream East was that its costs of the gross revenues tax being levied on it went unrecovered throughout the time that Windstream East was unconstitutionally barred from passing through the costs in the form of a line item surcharge as it had been permitted to do previously with the municipal franchise fees.
- Q. When did Windstream East begin recovering its costs of the tax in the form of a line item surcharge?
 - In 2007, when the court struck down the constitutional provision, it meant that we could recover our costs via a surcharge, and should have been permitted to do so from the time that the tax was initially imposed on us. Much like it had done with the pass through of prior franchise fees, Windstream East implemented the GRS to begin recovering its costs of the tax that had gone unrecovered for more than a year. Additionally, when we implemented the GRS, we determined that we would assess the GRS to the same services for which revenues are considered part of our gross revenues subject to the tax as detailed in guidelines from the Kentucky Department of Revenue.
- Q. Has Windstream East used the GRS to recover more than its costs of the gross revenues tax?

- 1 A. No. We have recovered less through the GRS than we have paid in gross revenues tax.
- Q. Has the Commission been aware since 2007 that Windstream East is assessing the
 GRS?
 - A. Yes. The Commission was aware through several sources that Windstream East is assessing the GRS and has been since 2007. As I mentioned above, we had one residential customer who filed a timely dispute of the GRS through the Commission's informal complaint procedures. The Commission referred that matter to Windstream East to handle with the customer, which we did. Additionally, once a year the Commission asks us to provide information regarding our basic local exchange service rate and the various fees and surcharges that apply to that service. Windstream East identifies the GRS as part of that filing. (See Exhibit F.) Out of an abundance of caution, we submitted tariff amendments to the Commission in August 2007 to update our existing tariff language. Within a couple of days, we informed the Commission that the tariff amendments were not required and that we would withdraw them. The Commission did not take further action regarding our amendments but does continue to acknowledge the GRS on our annual rate/surcharge information report I mentioned above.
 - Q. Did the gross revenues tax imposed on Windstream East increase Windstream East's cost of doing business as Plaintiff asserts at Paragraph 4 of her Complaint?
- 19 A. No. Windstream East had previously passed through franchise fees in the form of a line 20 item surcharge. Thus, when the new gross revenues tax eliminated direct franchise fees 21 and also unconstitutionally barred pass through of the costs of the tax in the form of a 22 surcharge, it was the unconstitutional surcharge ban that temporarily could have been 23 viewed as increasing our cost of doing business. That ban, however, was struck which

restored our ability to continue passing through our costs in the form of a surcharge as we had done prior to 2006. Moreover, to the extent that Plaintiff's reference to Windstream East's "cost of doing business" is intended to reference the Commission's historical rate-of-return methodologies, I should emphasize that Mrs. Bowers' claims overlook that she has nonbasic services that are subject to marketplace pricing.

6 Q. Were the prior franchise fees discussed above rates for service set by the Commission?

No. They were additives not considered as part of a telephone utility's rate base and instead were surcharges established pursuant to Windstream East's negotiations directly with various municipalities. Although we were required to petition the Commission for authority to bid on a municipal franchise, the Commission did not exercise authority over the resulting franchise fees. I am not aware of any instance since Windstream East began operating in Kentucky in 2002 when the Commission attempted to establish the amount of our telephone utility franchise fees or otherwise subjected our telephone utility franchise fees to a mandatory tariff regime. I cannot speak to the manner in which the Commission may establish franchise fees for other types of utilities like electric utilities. I can say that other fees like 911 fees are also established between telephone utilities and the municipalities and not required to be tariffed with the Commission.

Q. Can you elaborate on what you mean when you say that the gross revenues tax replaced the prior franchise fees?

A. Previously, municipalities were allowed to directly collect franchise fees from
Windstream East to recover for what the municipalities perceived was Windstream East's
burden to the public rights-of-way. In 2006, that method of direct collection changed, and

the General Assembly precluded the municipalities from continuing to collect franchise fees directly from communications providers like Windstream East. Instead, the state imposes a gross revenues tax on Windstream East, the funds from which are used to help benefit local municipalities in lieu of the prior franchise fees they collected directly.

Q. What is the significance to Plaintiff's Complaint of the gross revenues tax replacing the prior franchise fees?

The crux of Plaintiff's claims in her Complaint is that the GRS is an unfiled rate for telecommunications service. To the extent that Mrs. Bowers may be said to purchase jurisdictional services subject to Windstream East's Tariff No. 7 and to have met the timely dispute provisions thereunder, then there is already precautionary language in Tariff No. 7 providing for application of surcharges like the GRS. This language defeats the claims in the Complaint in their entirety. Specifically, Tariff No. 7 provides:

A.

There shall be added to the customer's bills, as a separate item, an amount equal to the proportionate part of any license, occupation, franchise, or other similar fee or tax now or hereafter agreed to or imposed upon the Company by local taxing authorities, whether imposed by ordinance, franchise or otherwise, and which fee or tax is based upon a percentage of the gross receipts, net receipts, or revenues of the Company. Such amount shall be added to bills of customers receiving service within the territorial limits of the taxing authority. Where more than one such fee or tax is imposed, each of the charges or taxes applicable to a customer shall be added to the customer's bill as separately identified items.

Mrs. Bowers stumbles around the significance of this language by trying to suggest that it pertains only to "local" taxes and does not include the gross revenues tax which is a "state tax." (Complaint, Paragraph 13.) Plaintiff is incorrect. First, she is wrong that a "local" tax cannot include one assessed by the Commonwealth of Kentucky. For instance, in our business we often may use the term "local" to distinguish <u>intra</u>state matters from

<u>interstate</u> matters. Second, Mrs. Bowers ignores that the gross revenues tax eliminated franchise fees previously collected directly by municipalities and now is collected by the Commonwealth for the benefit of those <u>local</u> municipalities.

Conclusion

A.

Q. Can you please summarize your testimony?

Mrs. Bowers' Complaint should be denied. She erroneously asserts that she has jurisdictional services, but she purchases nonbasic/nonjurisdictional services from Windstream East. Mrs. Bowers' services are subject to our terms and conditions that require her to be responsible for applicable surcharges and to timely dispute charges on her monthly bills. Even if she did purchase jurisdictional service from Windstream East, she is still incorrect that the GRS was a rate for telecommunications service that had to be tariffed with the Commission. In fact, Mrs. Bowers' claims are inconsistent with the very tariff she seeks to enforce. First, she asserts claims under the Filed Rate Doctrine but ignores that the tariff requires her to dispute charges within thirty days. Mrs. Bowers, however, did not dispute the GRS until a lawsuit was filed on her behalf two years after Windstream East began including the GRS on each of Mrs. Bowers' monthly invoices (and four months after her attorneys state they reviewed one of her invoices with her). Second, she asserts that the GRS is "unfiled" but overlooks that the very tariff she claims governs her service already contains precautionary language providing for such a surcharge. No matter how you view them, Mrs. Bowers' claims fail.

Q. Does this conclude your direct testimony?

25 A. Yes, at this time.

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF ARKANSAS)	
)	SS:
COUNTY OF PULASKI)	

Stephen Weeks, being duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is Director of Wholesale Services for Windstream Communications, Inc., and that in this capacity he is authorized to and does make this Affidavit on behalf of Windstream Kentucky East, LLC and that the statements set forth in the foregoing Direct Testimony are true and correct to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.

Sworn and Subscribed to before me this 4th day of June, 2011.

(SEAL)

My Commission Expires:

9/1/11



PSC Consumer Inquiry System

8/15/2007

Complaint: Entry Date: 8/15/200	7 Closed Date: Contact Type: Hotline			
Name:	Utility: Windstream Kentucky East			
Address:	Utility Nbr: Location: Residence			
	Utility Type: Local			
County:	Reason: Billing (Billing policles/practices)			
Home: Work:	(none) ((none))			
Fax: CBR Nbr:	Complaint referred by:			
Cell: Email:	•			
Contacted Utility? Spoke with: customer service				
Cust Relations: Not Knowledgeable				
Utility Contact: Phyllis Masters	Contact's (859) 357-6121			
Proliminary Description; new charge on bill	Other Contacts:			
Processor: CAROLJ.CUMMINS				
See File Case Related	Staff Referral Confidential			
Info Only	Ref to Utill Customer Yes O Satisfied No O			
PSC Narratives:	Investigator: CAROLJ.CUMMINS			
Date: 8/15/2007 9:02:03 AM				
There was a new charge on customer's bill (Ky Gross F what it was for. Please have someone call to explain ch	eceipts). When she called Windstream, the rep could not tell her arges to the customer.			

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REDACTED



Windstream Communications, Inc. ATTN: Tax Department 4001 Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212

July 21, 2007

RE: Account number



Dear Tax Department:

I am writing because I have noticed that my bill has risen by approximately \$1.50 in the period of March 2007 to July 2007. Upon Investigation, I found that this entire increase is due to the following reasons:

- (a) The Universal Services Fee is being charged to my account three (3) times per month
- (b) The addition of a KY Gross Receipts Surcharge, which is being charged to my account two (2) times per month, beginning with the June 2007 statement.

Here is a table of these charges over the period of May 2007 to July 2007:

Month	Universal Services Fee	Universal Service Fund - RES	USF Charge - Blended Rate - RES	KY Gross Receipts Surcharge (1)	KY Gross Receipts Surcharge (2)	Monthly Delta
March	\$0.63	\$0.19	\$0.63	\$0.00	\$0.00	
April	\$0.76	\$0.19	\$0.75	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.25
May	\$0.76	\$0.23	\$0.75	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.04
June	\$0.76	\$0.23	\$0.75	\$0.41	\$0.23	\$0.64
viut	\$0.73	\$0.23	\$0.72	\$0.82	50.44	\$0.56

Note the delta of \$0.25 between March and April, the \$0.64 delta between May and June, and the \$0.56 delta between June and July. My services have not changed, nor have the costs of these services changed, in the time period in question. I believe that I am entitled to an explanation for these increases.

Furthermore, note that there are three (3) occurrences of the Universal Service Fee, albeit under slightly different names. I am told that the first is a tax for calling intra- and inter-state, the second is a tax for my line, and the third is a tax for my service bundle. This in my mind is a case of triple charging this tax on my account, although it is subtly hidden by the very slight differentiation in name.

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Finally, note that there are two occurrences of the KY Gross Receipts Surcharge, which I have labeled (1) and (2) for differentiation. They appear in two different locations on my bill, and there is not even an attempt to differentiate between them with a naming change. Again, this in my mind is a case of double charging the same tax to my account. In addition to the double-charging, notice that the KY Gross Receipts Surcharges doubled from June 2007 to July 2007, even though my service and service cost did not change.

I firmly believe that I am entitled to the following:

- An clear, detailed explanation by a live person (not by written correspondence) of the Universal Services Fees and Gross Receipts Surcharges being applied to my account.
- 2. A justification for the sharp rise in these taxes over the last few months.
- 3. A clear, detailed explanation by a live person (not by written correspondence) of the reason that my account is being charged multiple times for each of these taxes.
- 4. A refund or credit to my account of the multiple instances of the same tax.

I look forward to hearing from your representative as soon as possible on this matter.



REDACTED

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EXHIBIT B

IS

ENTIRELY REDACTED



Sample A. Sample

#1 Address Line

#2 Address Line City, State 12345-6789 High-speed Internet now available in your neighborhood.

Get any speed 🙎 for just

\$1.9999

gree marish hed a number of to publishers, society

Dear Sample A. Sample,

We've expanded our Broadband service so it's now available at your address! And just in time for you to take advantage of our limited-time Broadband offer. It's a deal with speeds so fast and affordable, you won't be able to pass it up.

	Broadband 1.5 Mbps	Broadband 3 Mbps	Broadband 6 Mbps
Open 1 MB family photo e-mail	About 6 Sec.	About 3 sec.	About 1 sec.
Download 3.5 MB movie preview	About 22 sec.	About 11 sec.	About 5 sec.

Check out the enclosed brochure and see the back for more details.

Get any speed for just



Sign up now and you'll also receive:

- Free professional installation
- Free modem (after rebate)
- · 30-day satisfaction guarantee

If you've been looking for high-speed Internet at a low price, now's the time to get it. Call **1-877-511-2680** today—and get on your way to downloading your favorite music, sharing online photos and watching video streams at speeds faster than ever.

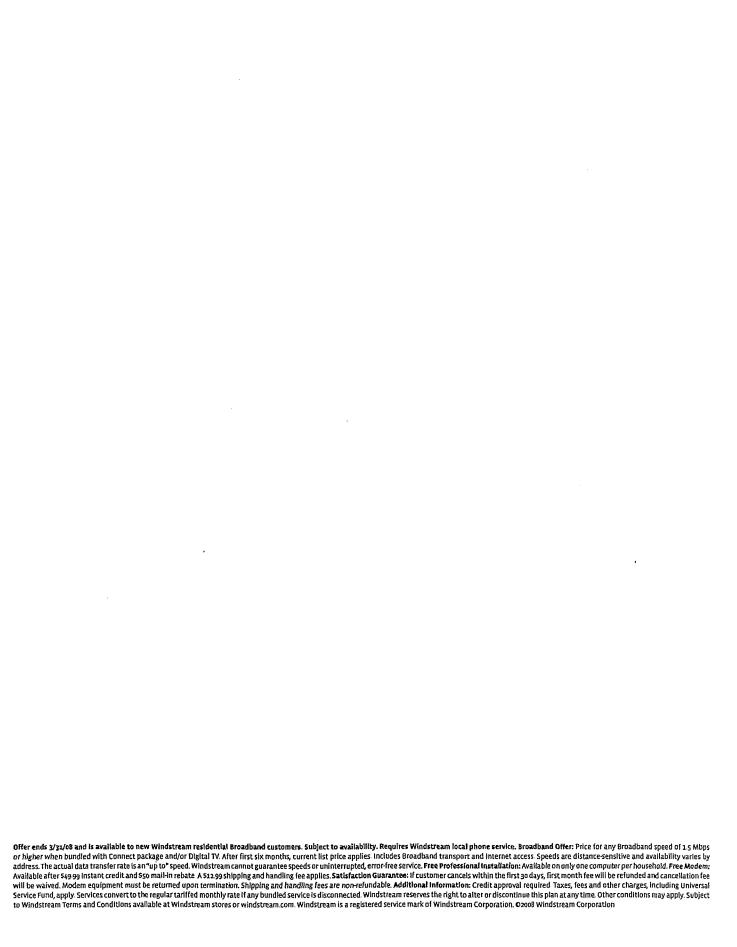
Sincerely,

Brad Williams

Windstream Broadband Service

Brad Williams

P.S. Don't delay! Call 1-877-511-2680 today!





Windstream 20/20

High-Speed Internet

\$20 per month for 12 months with qualifying services

Reliable Phone

\$20 per month with qualifying services

Input Source Code Sample A. Sample #1 Address Line #2 Address Line Anytown, USA 12345-6789 !12345678922!

Why Windstream 20/207

- Simple. Two products, one bill.
- Convenient. Spend less time paying bills.
- Affordable. Enjoy savings over Cable Internet and phone.
- Switching is easy. Keep your same number.
- Plus, FREE professional installation of your Windstream High-Speed Internet!

Maybe your service provider isn't meeting your standards and you aren't connections that can't be matched by wireless or cable phone providers. seeing the savings and reliability you need. We provide quality phone

The Road to Safety Begins With a Landline.

All over the country, and right in your town, friends and neighbors are talking about the safety, security and reliability of a landline phone.

To bear inde, wait

www.mostreliablephone.com

A. OBSH KOFOUNTINEKONDOMS

High-Speed Internet

Reliable Phone Service

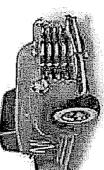
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Broadband 3 Mbps

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 - > Free Modem (after rebate)

Monthly Residential Service
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 Caller ID
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- > Technical Support—24/7 > 30-Day Satisfaction Guarantee



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Dear Valued Customer,

Great News! 12 Mbps High-Speed Internet Is Now Available To Your Home.

Windstream has made some major network enhancements in your area. This means you can now get amazing new Internet speeds of up to 12 Mbps. Better still, these blazing-fast speeds are available to you for only \$19.99 per month for six months with qualifying services. So if you've contacted us before about high-speed Internet—only to find the speed you wanted was unavailable—now's the time to call again for the speed you need.

A Better Value Than Cable Internet.

Windstream gives you the fastest, most reliable speed for your money. And now, when you switch from cable Internet, you'll get an extra \$5 off per month. It's the speed you need, the reliability you count on and the value that cable just can't offer. And with this "no-risk" offer it's easier than ever to test-drive our new, blazing-fast Internet speeds including:

- •30-day satisfaction guarantee.
- •FREE professional installation.
- •FREE modem (after rebate).

The Speed You Want.

So if you're looking to spend less time waiting on downloads and more time enjoying them—look no further. The improved Windstream network can deliver the high-speed Internet you want and need, now with connection speeds **up to 12 Mbps**. Call **1.866.577.5201** and take it for a spin today!

Sincerely,

Brad Williams

Windstream Customer Service

Brad Williams

PHONE

BROADBAND

DISTAL TV

Offer ends 6/30/08 and is available to new Windstream residential Broadband customers. Subject to availability. Requires Windstream local phone service. Offer Details: Price for any Broadband speed of 1.5 Mbps or higher when bundled with Connect package and/or 1.0 Figlical TV. Rate increases after six-month promotional period. Speeds are distance-sensitive and availability varies by address. Free Modern: Available after 54999 instant credit and 5co mail-in rebat. A 52299 shipping and handling fee applies. Free Professional Installation: Available on only one computer per household. Satisfaction Guarantes: if customer cancels within the first 30 days, first 3



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99 per month

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Dear Valued Business Customer,

Now your business can boost productivity and manage costs. By bundling your business voice services with Windstream's **Business Connect SB** plan, we can help you connect like never before. Whatever your business needs, Windstream has the communications tools to meet them. After all, personalizing your business solutions is at the heart of what we do—products and services specifically designed to improve your productivity and your bottom line.

The voice services you need - all for one low monthly price
With Windstream's Business Connect SB plan, you get unlimited local
calling, 100 minutes of long distance, voice mail, caller ID and more. Plus
you get free activation---all for only \$39.99 per month.

Connect with customers – around the state and across the country

Add Unlimited Long Distance and stay connected with customers around
the state or across the country. For just \$20 more per month, you can
instantly communicate with valued contacts anywhere in the nation.

All for you and your business

We're the largest telecommunications and entertainment services company focused on serving rural America and surrounding cities—and that means we're here for you. Why not take advantage of this special offer? Call us today at 1.866.445.5929 and join the thousands of Windstream customers who are getting down to business and keeping down costs.

Sincerely,

Brad Williams Windstream Customer Service

Brad Williams

P.S. Call **1.866.445.5929** today and have a Personal Business Representative put together your business communications plan.

Bundle your business voice services

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OSI permenth with qualifying s

per menth with qualifying sorress and agreentent

BUSINESS CONNECT SB

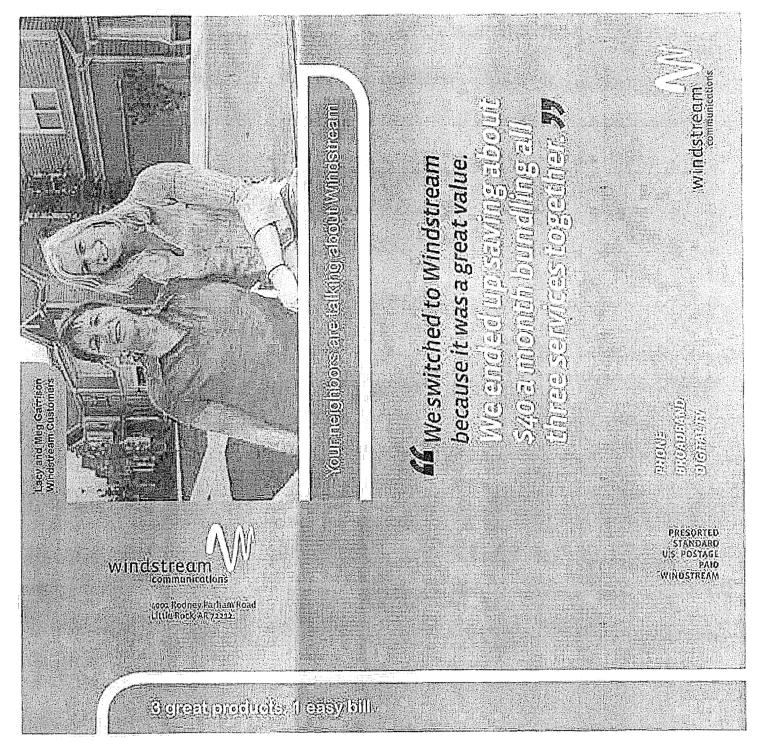
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- · 100 Minutes of Long Distance
- · Voice Mall. Caller ID & More
- · Free Activation
- ·Add Unlimited Long Distance for \$20 per month

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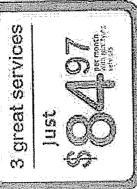
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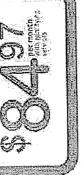
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Just

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Windstream Broadband is a not topic these days. It delivers all the Internet has to offer, right to your home, and you pick the speed — 1.5, 3 or 6 Mbps. You can telecommute, shop, bank and enjoy podcasts, and download music, photos and videos.



interruptions than cell phones. And this is the only phone service that reliably pinpoints your location for 911 emergency services. If keeping in touch is as Here's the buzz—Connect Unlimited brings you local and long-distance phone service with unlimited minutes, no dropped calls and fewer service important as keeping costs down, Windstream speaks your language.

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The word is out—Windstream brings you the entertainment you love from DISH Network, including your favorite shows and movies as well as news, equipment to buy, FREE equipment upgrades and Standard Professional Installation. It's great entertainment at a great low price. weather, sports and more. Plus, you get savings and convenience-no

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Connect Unlimited phone service

>HIGH-SPEED INTERNET

Connect to the Web at any speed —

Over 40 channels, including locals

DISH Network

 FREE Standard Professional Installation (up to 4 rooms) FREE equipment upgrades

(where available)

No equipment to buy

- Home phone line
- Unlimited local and long-distance
 - · Caller ID, Call Waiting and more

Technical support, all day, every day

· FREE professional installation TRY ANY SPEED for just

 FREE modem (after rebate) 1.5, 3 or 6 Mbps

999 per month for the first stamouths with qualifying services

When you bundle services, you save. For any table of the state of

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BUNDLE

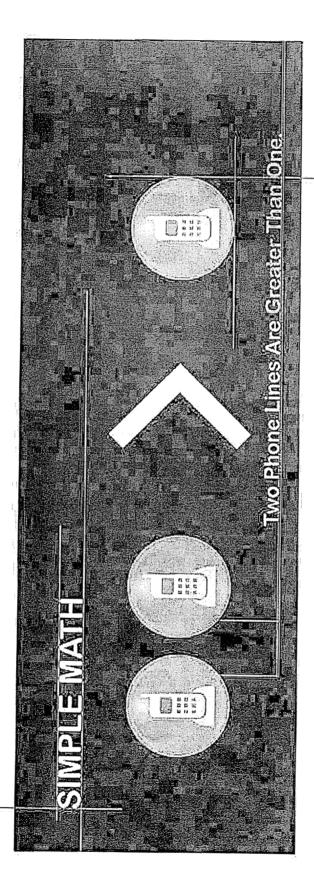
 High Speed Internet
 Release Phone
 DISH Network Spending Spe (See inside for details.)

HTC-2517-0366MA1-5/08

THREE GREAT SERVICES. ONE INGREDIBLE VALUE.

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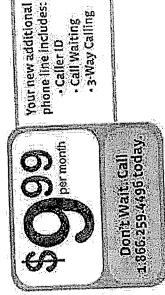






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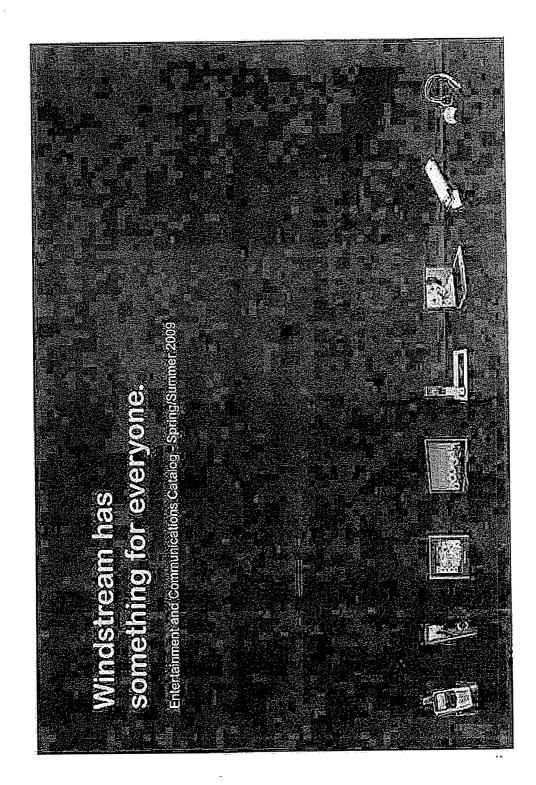
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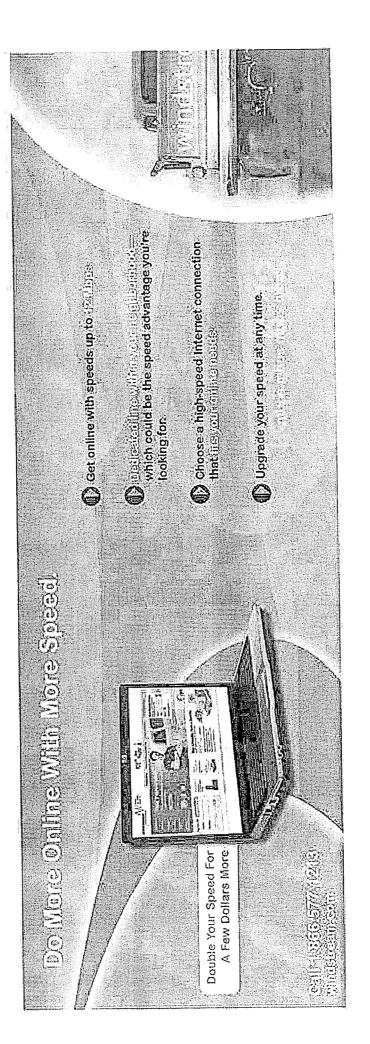
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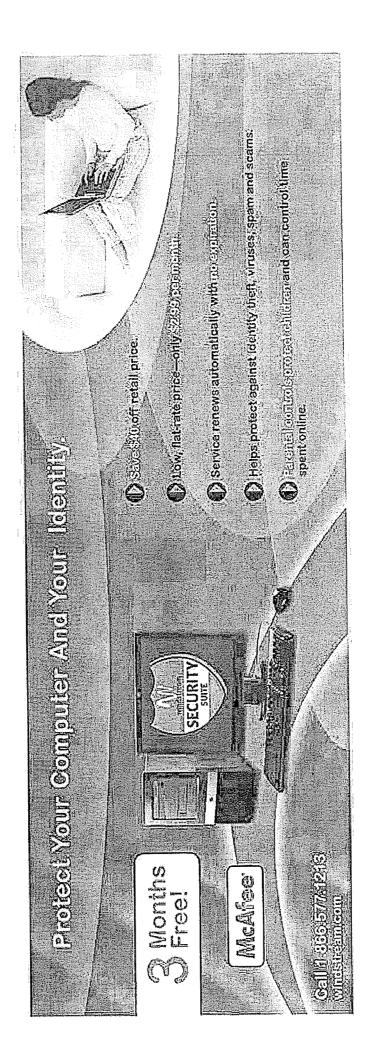
Mon.-Fri. 8:00am-5:00pm, Closed from 1:00pm-2:00pm Visit your local retail store at: 123 Main Street, Anytown 555-895-6985

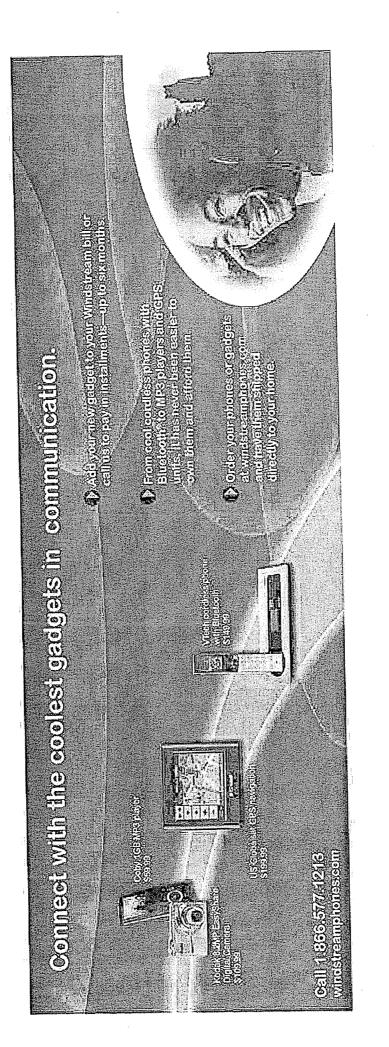
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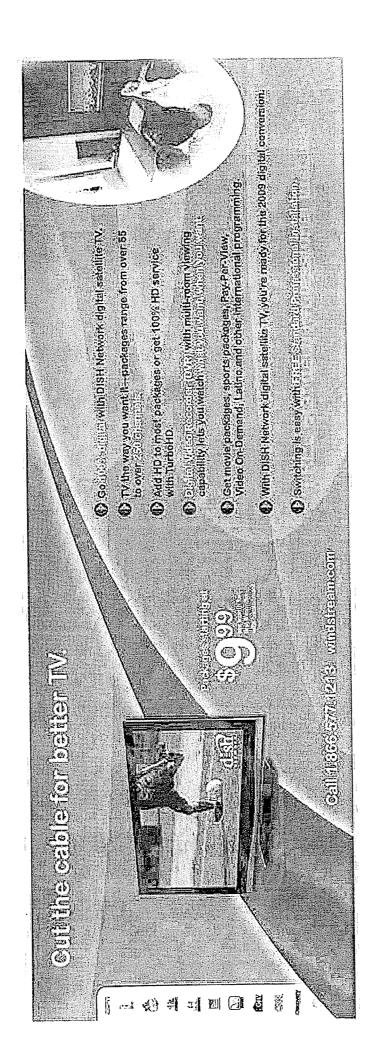
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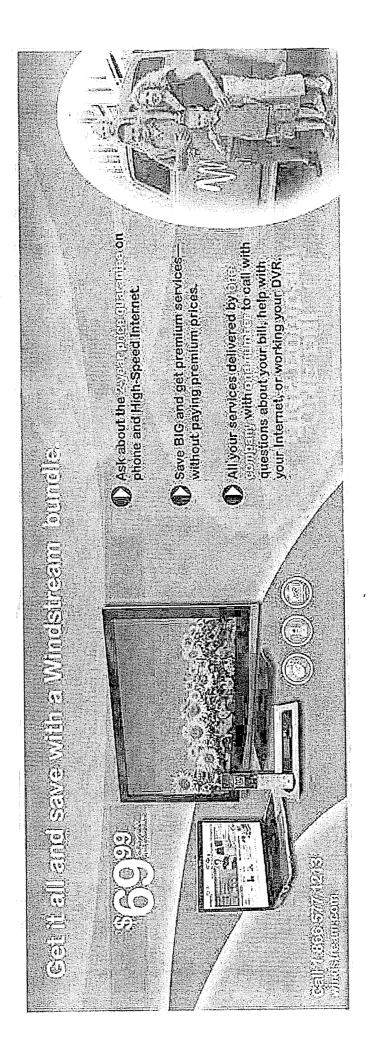


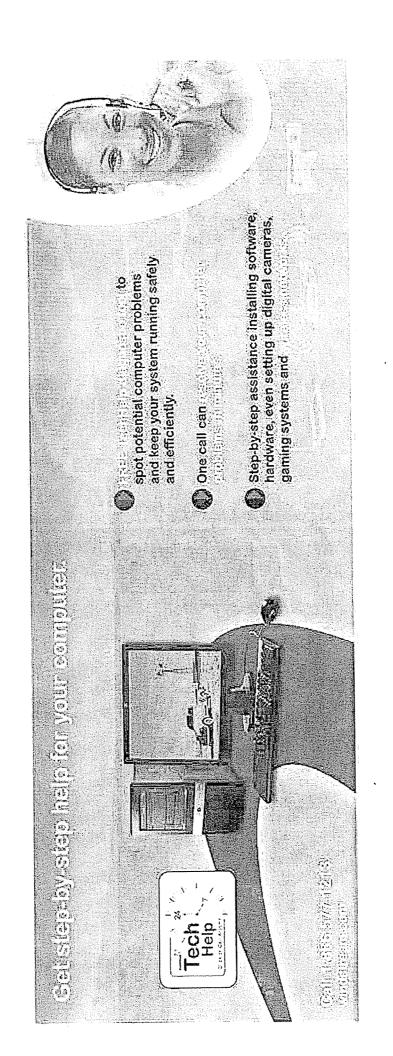






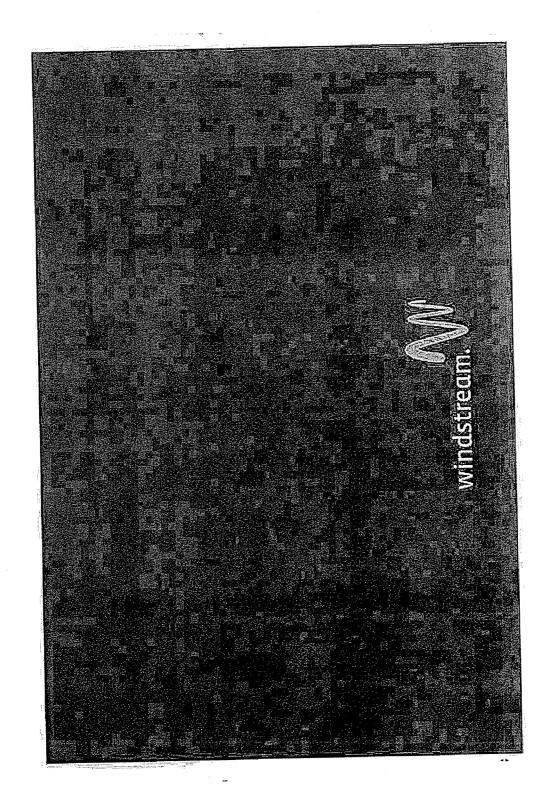






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> Input Source Code Sample A. Sample 21 Address Line #2 Address Line Anytown, USA 12345-6789

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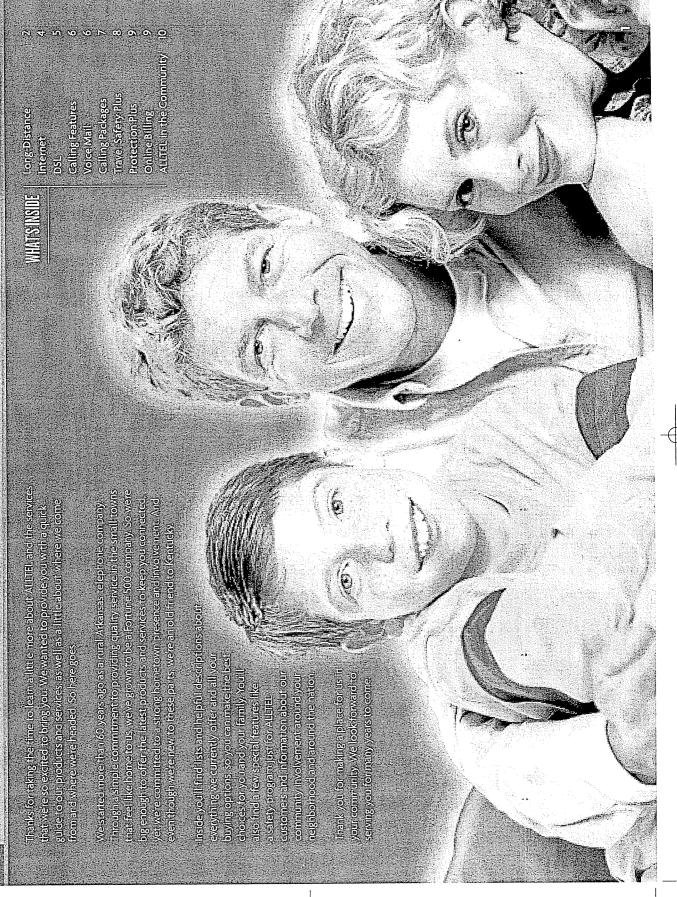
Since 1980, the Make-A-Wish Foundation of America has been dedicated to granting the wishes of children with life-threatening illnesses. This year ALLIEL joined the cause with a \$10,000 domation with directly affect more than 20 children, as well as the giff of 100,000 minutes of free long-distance for Wish Kits and their families to luse during their difficult time. ALLIEL is proud to be therifirst communications, company to partite with this organization at a national level.

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Calling other countries can ger costly. But our exclusive ALLTEL International Plan offers special discounted rates to more than 190 countries. So you can call as tar away as you want as offen as you want.

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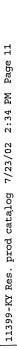
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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Q. Will this transition affect my telephone service?
- A. No. You will keep the same rates, the same telephone number and you will call the same phone numbers to contact the local telephone company. You also retain the right to choose any long-distance or local phone service provider in your area.
- Q. Who do I call to handle service requests?
- A. Beginning August 1, ALLTEL will handle any service requests, questions or complaints.
- Q. How will I be notified of other service changes?
- A. It is important to note that there are no changes to your rates or services. In the future, you will be notified by letter or through a message in your monthly bill should there be any changes affecting your rates or services.
- Q. What if I have chosen Verizon with a preferred carrier freeze?
- A. ALLTEL will automatically remove the freeze and you will have to contact ALLTEL to reinstate it.

iPay co-founder Dana Bowers wins regional Ernst & Young award

BY BRENT ADAMS AND SARAH JEFFORDS PISTER | STAFF WRITERS bsadams@blzjournals.com, spister@blzjournals.com

in the financial-services industry that it serves. And the person who has guided the company's growth recently gained recognitown, Ky, has become a well-known name iPay Technologies LLC, a rapidly growing, bill-payment service provider in Elizabethtion of her own.

Year Award winner for the South Central Dana Bowers, co-founder and managing partner of iPay Technologies, was named the Ernst & Young LLP Entrepreneur of the Ohio and Kentucky region.

"It was very humbling," Bowers said, "I'm extremely thankful

tary, online bill-payment software. It works Founded in 2001, iPay offers a proprie-

nationwide, and another 800 customers are with more than 2,800 financial institutions under contract to begin using the services ater this year.

DANA BOWERS

And iPay announced this week that it has a contract with My CU Services LLC, a subsidiary of Mid-Atlantic Corporate Federal Credit Union, which has outsourced its billpayment operations to iPay.

Bowers called the agreement a "significant" win for iPay, which has increased revenue and profit every year since its inception.

She declined to disclose specific figures, but she said the company's revenue rose about 35 percent in 2008. Projections for this year call for a similar increase.

The growth stems from a combination of Small-business product introduced

tomer base.

payment services are considered a "mission-critical product," so financial institutions have continued to buy the services despite the economic downturn. new clients and expansion of bill-payment services among the company's current cus-Fortunately for iPay, Bowers said, bill-

cation that includes online invoicing and Along with its consumer bill-payment technology, iPay recently launched Biz 2.0, payment tools, account-to-account transers, payroll deposits and business bill paya second-generation small-business appli

More than 400 financial institutions al-

Biz 2.0 has not been a large driver of the current uptick in business, but Bowers excreasing revenue growth in the next two to pects it will be key to maintaining and inready are using the product. hree years.

Minner of national award

iPay employs 225 workers, about 200 of bethtown headquarters on North Black whom are located in the company's Elizato be announced in November, Branch Road.

pects of her success with iPay is that she has been able to bring career opportunities to her hometown and "give back to the com-Bowers said one of the most fulfilling asmunity that raised me.

By winning the regional award, Bowers is eligible to compete for the Ernst & Young LLP Entrepreneur of the Year 2009 National Award.

The winner will be announced at an event on Nov. 14 in Palm Springs, Calif.

reducing defects in a variety

of processes?

Are you responsible for

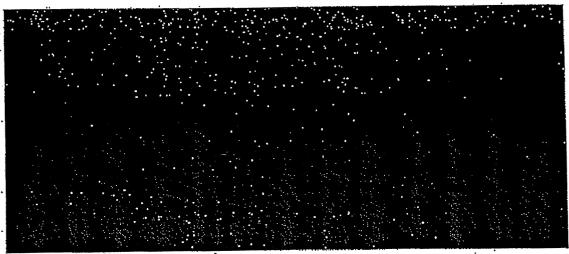
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business processes within improving the service or

your organization?

7. 10. 7. 17. 17. 17. Are you responsible for lowering no, ule the cost of doing business within your organization? Are you responsible for

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From: Stevens, Jim (PSC) [mailto:wjstevens@ky.gov]
Sent: Friday, February 15, 2008 3:04 PM
To: Logsdon, Daniel
Subject: Windstream.xls

Dan, The attached spreadsheet contains a calculation of a basic telephone bill for Windstream in Lexington, I have copied the information from last year assuming no changes. If there have been any changes since last year please update the information. This information is used by the state cabinet for families and children,

If you are not the right person for this please pass this on to the proper person.

Jim

Jim Stevens, CPA
Manager, Telecommunications Revenue Requirements Branch
Kentucky Public Service Commission
211 Sower Bivd.
P.O. Box 615
Frankfort, KY 40602
502-564-3940 x 238
502-564-1582 Fax

<<Windstream.xls>>

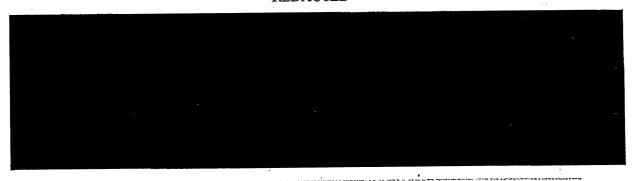
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4/7/2011

Windstream - L	EOY 2007		
Basic Rate with	Touch Tone	\$ 18,95	
Federal Subscrib	er Line Charge	\$ 8.50	
	al Service Charge	\$ 0,63	
Kentucky Lifeline		\$ 80.0	
KY TRS/TAP SU		\$ 0.09	
Local Number P	\$ 		
911 Charge		\$ 1.31	
Subt	otal	 27.58	
Federal Ex	3.00%	\$ 0.84	
	3,00%	\$ 0.59	
	3,00%	\$ 0.57	
	6.00%	\$ 1.14	
	l Basic Bill	\$ 30.70	

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REDACTED



From: Logsdon, Daniel

Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2009 12:07 PM

To: 'Stevens, Jim (PSC)' Subject: RE: Windstream.xls

Jim .

See the attached. Let me know if you have questions

Dan

----Original Message----

From: Stevens, Jim (PSC) [mailto:wjstevens@ky.gov] Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2009 3:25 PM

To: Logsdon, Daniel Subject: Windstream.xls

Dan,

We are doing the annual rate survey for the State assistance. Can you verify the numbers in the attached spread sheet and change where necessary.

<<Windstream:xls>>

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	State Sales Tax	Local Franchise Fee	Local School Tax	Federal Excise Tax	KY state G/R surcharge		911 Charge	LOCAL TARREST CONTRACTOR	I ocal Number Portability	KY TRS/TAP Support	Kentucky Lifeline Support	Federal Universal Service Charge	Federal Subscriber Line Charge	Basic Rate with Touch Tone	•	Windstream - Lexington		
Total Basic Bill	6.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%		Subtotal						2			.,			
\$30.70	\$ 1.14	\$ 0.5/	\$ 0.55	\$ 0.84	\$ 0,45	\$27.56		\$ 1.31	€	\$ 0.08	9 6	# 0.00	のののの	・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・			2008	EOY
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Shearer, Jeanne

From:

Shearer, Jeanne

Sentr

Tuesday, February 23, 2010 7:52 AM

To:

'Sievens, Jim (PSC)'

Subject:

RE: Rate Survey

Attachments: Windstream 2009,xls

Jlm.

Per your request attached are the updates you requested.

Jeanne

From: Stevens, Jim (PSC) [mailto:wjstevens@ky.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2010 2:39 PM
To: Shearer, Jeanne
Subject: Rate Survey

Hi Jeanne, Each year at the PSC we are asked to do a rate survey for the Cabinet for Families and Children for the State. They use the rates to determine assistance levels. We get rates for the major cities, Lexington and Louisville, Attached is a spreadsheet that shows the charges that would appear on a bill for basic service only. Please verify the rates and make any necessary changes, I can verify most rates except the Federal USF, 911 and the tax calculations. Any questions let me know,

Jim Stevens, CPA Manager, Telecommunications Revenue Requirements Brench-Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Bivd. P.O. Box 615 Frankfort, KY 40602 602-564-8940 x 238 502-564-1582 Fax

<<Windstream 2009.xis>>

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2/23/2010

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Windstream - Lexington		2009
The last will would want		
Basic Rate with Touch Tone		\$ 18.95
.Federal Subscriber Line Char		\$ 6.50
Federal Universal Service Ch	erge	::\$40:80::
Kentucky Lifeline Support		\$ 0,08
KY TRSITAP Support		5 0.04
Local-Number Portability	The second secon	
911 Charge		· 6:500
•	Subtotal	\$28.58
KY stele G/R surcharge	1,30%	F\$130,35
Federal Excise Tax	3.00%	6 10 88
Local School Tex	3.00%	\$\$ 50,57
Local Franchise Fee	0.00%	\$ -
State Sales Tax	6.00%	
	Total Basic Bill	क्षेत्र ५६%

REDACTED

From: Shearer, Jeanne

Sent: Thursday, March 03, 2011 8:03 AM

To: 'Stevens, Jim (PSC)' Subject: FW: Basic Bill

Jim,

The factor used to calculate the federal universal service charge changed; I marked the spreadsheet accordingly. Note: Effective 1-1-11, the factor changed again, but my understanding is you want the charges as of 12-31-10,

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and that is what the spreadsheet reflects.

If you have any questions, let me know. Have a great day.

Jeanne

From: Stevens, Jim (PSC) [mailto:wjstevens@ky.gov]

Sent: Monday, February 14, 2011 2:02 PM **To:** Shearer, Jeanne; Shearer, Jeanne

Subject: Basic Bill

I'm doing our annual check of the calculations of the Bill for Basic Service in Lexington as of the end of 2010 for the Cabinet for Families and Children. Attached is a spread sheet with the Calculations, please make any corrections and return to me.

<<Windstream Basic Bill 2010.xls>>

Thanks Jim

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		EOY
Windstream - Lexington		2010
Basic Rate with Touch Tone		\$18.95
Federal Subscriber Line Charge		\$ 6.50
Federal Universal Service Char	ge	\$10.84
Kentucky Lifeline Support		\$ 0.08
KY TRS/TAP Support		\$ 0.04
Local Number Portability		\$ -
911 Charge		\$ 2.19
	Subtotal	\$28.60
KY state G/R surcharge	1.30%	\$ 0.35
Federal Excise Tax	3.00%	\$ 0.86
Local School Tax	3.00%	\$ 0.57
Local Franchise Fee	. 0.00%	\$ -
State Sales Tax	6.00%	\$ 1.58
	Total Basic Bill	\$31.60