COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

FUNDING FOR THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS) CASE NO. 2017-00358

ORDER

The Commission has determined that due to changes in the cost of Telecommunications Relay Service ("TRS"), the monthly surcharge for each Local Exchange Carrier¹ ("LEC") and wireless carrier customer access line shall be decreased by one cent (\$0.01) to one cent (\$0.01) per month. The surcharge for the Telecommunications Access Program ("TAP") will remain at two cents (\$0.02) per month. As in the past, these items may be shown as a combined charge on a single line of the customer's bills as "TRS/TAP Surcharge". The combined charge shall be three cents (\$0.03). Any LEC with a tariff on file shall file a revision to reflect this change no later than December 1, 2017, to take effect January 1, 2018.

The Commission also establishes this proceeding to determine how often it reviews and adjusts the TRS surcharge. Currently the Commission reviews the TRS surcharge as needed to ensure that the TRS fund is adequate to meet its obligations. The costs of the TRS program vary from month to month and, as the contract for services is changed or renewed in the future, the overall cost of the program varies. The collection

¹ Local exchange carriers include all incumbent and competitive local exchange carriers.

² The TRS/TAP surcharge shall be remitted regardless of whether the customer is prepaid or postpaid.

of revenue also varies, but to a lesser extent, increasing or decreasing based on the number of access lines served by the carriers. Due to the way in which the surcharge is collected, it is difficult to match revenue with expenses exactly. Therefore, the fund must either under-collect or over-collect, depending on the surcharge rate. The Commission seeks to minimize the size of the fund and therefore minimize over-collections.³ The fund balance at this time is such that the Commission will reduce the surcharge, thereby under-collecting revenue and reducing the balance of the fund. The fund balance will eventually reach a level at which the Commission will need to increase the surcharge to meet the funding requirement of the program.

The Commission seeks comment from the carriers on the frequency of future changes to the surcharge collected for the TRS. As stated above, the Commission seeks to minimize the balance of the fund and match collections with expenses, while recognizing that changing the rate too frequently puts a burden on carriers that must change billing systems and may cause customer confusion. Although the Commission regularly monitors the revenue and expenses of the fund, we propose that a more formal review take place more frequently. For example, the Commission will consider whether it should review and adjust the surcharge on a bi-annual, annual, semi-annual, or quarterly basis. Carriers are invited to file comments on the timeframe for review and possible rate adjustment of the TRS surcharge.

³ Maintaining a too-large surplus in the account has resulted in a "sweep" of the funds to the Commonwealth's general budget. For example, in the 2104-2015 Fiscal Year, the General Assembly transferred \$2,400,000 from the TRS fund to the general budget. *See* 14 RS HB 235 at page 241. This left approximately \$200,000 in the TRS fund and prevented the Commission from lowering the surcharge until now.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

- The surcharge for TRS shall be decreased by one cent (\$0.01) per month beginning with all bills for service rendered on and after January 1, 2018.
- 2. All LECs with tariffs on file shall submit to the Commission revisions to reflect this change by December 1, 2017.
- Any carrier may submit comments on the proposition that the Commission review the TRS surcharge on a regularly scheduled basis within 45 days of the date of this Order.
- 4. Carriers shall continue to remit the surcharge monthly via the online portal established by the Commission.

By the Commission

ENTERED

SEP 14 2017

KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

ATTEST

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*365 Wireless, LLC 365 Wireless, LLC 2870 Peachtree Road, Suite 951 Atlanta, GA 30305 *Birch Telecom of the South, Inc. dba Birch Telecom of the South, Inc. dba Birch 2323 Grand Blvd, Suite 925 Kansas City, MO 64108 *Tennessee Independent Telecommunicat dba Tennessee Independent Telecommunications 211 Commerce Street, Suite 610 Nashville, TN 37201

*Touchtone Communications, Inc. Touchtone Communications, Inc. 16 South Jefferson Road Whippany, NJ 07981 *Birch Communications, Inc. Birch Communications, Inc. 2323 Grand Blvd, Suite 925 Kansas City, MO 64108 *NextGen Communications, Inc. NextGen Communications, Inc. 275 West Street, Suite 400 Annapolis, MD 21401

*T C Telephone LLC d/b/a Horizon Cell T C Telephone LLC d/b/a Horizon Cellular 243 Washington Street Red Bluff, CA 96080 *Tempo Telecom, LLC Tempo Telecom, LLC 2323 Grand Blvd, Suite 925 Kansas City, MO 64108 *Illinois Network Alliance, LLC dba B Illinois Network Alliance, LLC dba Bluebird 2005 W Broadway, Suite 110 Building A Columbia, MO 65203 *Cellco Partnership dba Verizon Wirel Cellco Partnership dba Verizon Wireless One Verizon Way Mailcode VC53S475 Basking Ridge, NJ 07920 *Talk America Services, LLC Talk America Services, LLC 10802 Executive Center Drive Benton Building, Suite 300 Little Rock, AR 72211 *Granite Telecommunications, LLC Granite Telecommunications, LLC 100 Newport Avenue Extension Quincy, MA 02171

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

*Win.Net Telecommunications, Inc. Win.Net Telecommunications, Inc. 332 W Broadway, Suite 214 Louisville, KY 40202 *CenturyLink Communications, LLC CenturyLink Communications, LLC 100 CenturyLink Drive Monroe, LA 71203

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

*Easy Telephone Service Company dba E Easy Telephone Service Company dba Easy 4352 SE 95th Street Ocala, FL 34480 *Cumberland Cellular, Inc. dba Duo Co Cumberland Cellular, Inc. dba Duo County 2150 N Main Street P. O. Box 80 Jamestown, KY 41269

*New Par dba Verizon Wireless New Par dba Verizon Wireless One Verizon Way Mailcode VC53S475 Basking Ridge, NJ 07920 *dishNet Wireline, LLC dishNet Wireline, LLC 9601 S Meridian Blvd Englewood, CO 80112 *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 VC53S475 Basking Ridge, NJ 07920 *PNG Telecommunications, Inc. dba Pow dba PNG Telecommunications, Inc. dba PowerNet 8805 Governor's Hill Drive Suite 250 Cincinnati, OH 45249 *AmeriVision Communications, Inc. d/b AmeriVision Communications, Inc. d/b/a Affinity 4 2037 Laskin Road Virginia Beach, VA 23454

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AT&T Corp.
Meidinger Tower
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*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 *Windstream NuVox, LLC Windstream NuVox, LLC 4001 N Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212

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*Velocity Networks of Kentucky, Inc. Velocity Networks of Kentucky, Inc. 120 East Third Street Russellville, KY 42276 *Talk America, LLC Talk America, LLC 4001 N Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212

*BellSouth Long Distance, Inc. dba AT BellSouth Long Distance, Inc. dba AT&T Long Meidinger Tower 462 S 4th Street, Suite 2400 Louisville, KY 40202 *i-Wireless, LLC i-Wireless, LLC 1 Levee Way, Suite 3104 Newport, KY 41071 *Network Telephone, LLC Network Telephone, LLC 4001 N Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212

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*Duo County Telephone Cooperative Cor Duo County Telephone Cooperative Corporation, 2150 N Main Street P. O. Box 80 Jamestown, KY 42629 *Windstream Norlight, LLC Windstream Norlight, LLC 4001 Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212 *The Other Phone Company, LLC dba Access The Other Phone Company, LLC dba Access One 4001 N Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212 *Windstream Communications, LLC Windstream Communications, LLC 4001 N Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212 *Global Crossing Local Services, Inc. Global Crossing Local Services, Inc. 1025 Eldarado Blvd Broomfield, CO 80021

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

*Level 3 Communications, LLC Level 3 Communications, LLC 1025 Eldorado Blvd Broomfield, CO 80021

*PAETEC Communications, LLC PAETEC Communications, LLC 4001 N Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212 *Level 3 Telecom of Kentucky, LLC Level 3 Telecom of Kentucky, LLC 1025 Eldorado Blvd Broomfield, CO 80021

*Windstream NTI, LLC Windstream NTI, LLC 4001 N Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212 *Fore Street Telecom, LLC Fore Street Telecom, LLC 292 Fore Street Portland, ME 04101

*Windstream Kentucky East, LLC Windstream Kentucky East, LLC 4001 N Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212 *West Telecom Services, LLC West Telecom Services, LLC 3200 W Pleasant Run Road, Suite 300 Lancaster, TX 75146

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