JAN 12 2007 PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



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January 12, 2007

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Beth O'Donnell Executive Director Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601

RE: Case Number 2006-00532

Dear Ms. O'Donnell:

On September 29, 2006, pursuant to 807 KAR 5:006, Section 26, Windstream provided documentation to the Kentucky Public Service Commission ("Commission") regarding the September 23, 2006 outage at its Elizabethtown, Kentucky Central Office ("CO"). Windstream provided the Commission a summary report of the outage that resulted in the loss of phone service in the Elizabethtown exchange and hampered phone service in Campbellsville, Clarkson, Glasgow and Leitchfield. As requested by Commission Staff, on October 5, 2006 Windstream provided a summary of emergency response procedures that Windstream follows when a CO experiences a major outage such as the one that occurred in Elizabethtown. Additionally, shortly after the outage, Commission personnel were given a tour of the facility in Elizabethtown. Windstream provides this current communication in response to the Commission's Order in this docket dated December 12, 2006.

As noted previously in communications with the Commission, on September 23, 2006 an extraordinary storm in the Elizabethtown area caused the CO battery room to flood with approximately eighteen inches of water. Local media described this storm and the flooding that it

engendered as a "100 year flood." As a result of the flood, rectifiers for the CO batteries failed. Once the batteries failed to hold their charge for more than three hours, call processing ceased. Signaling System 7 ("SS7") links to Leitchfield, Campbellsville, Clarkson, and Glasgow were interrupted causing them to be toll isolated. Approximately 45,000 lines were out of service in Elizabethtown and approximately 38,000 lines were unable to make long distance calls from the four areas noted above. For approximately twelve hours, the Elizabethtown Fire Department assisted Windstream in pumping water from the basement of the CO. After the water was removed a vendor (Falcon Electric) immediately began installing new rectifiers, which arrived from Missouri shortly before pumping was complete. Windstream restored service to all customers at approximately 3:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 24, 2006.

Although Windstream and its predecessors had utilized the DC power room located in the basement of the Elizabethtown CO since the 1950s without incident, once the September outage had been resolved, Windstream immediately began exploring building modifications for a new DC power room. In October 2006, Windstream moved its DC power room out of the basement of its Elizabethtown facility to the first floor of the building – approximately 15 feet above its previous location. Windstream estimates the cost for the new DC power room to be approximately \$150,000 and the cost of the new DC power equipment and labor to be \$500,000. The total cost for improvements, therefore, will be approximately \$650,000. Windstream expects to complete the building modifications by February 5, 2007 and to have the new DC power equipment in service by March 30, 2007.

Windstream looks forward to discussing this issue in further detail with the Commission at the informal conference scheduled with Commission staff on January 16, 2007.

Sincerely,

Daniel Logsdon