Steven L. Beshear Governor

Robert D. Vance, Secretary Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet

Larry R. Bond Commissioner Department of Public Protection



Commonwealth of Kentucky **Public Service Commission** 211 Sower Blvd. P.O. Box 615 Frankfort, Kentucky 40602-0615 Telephone: (502) 564-3940 Fax: (502) 564-3460 psc.ky.gov Mark David Goss Chairman Ļ

John W. Clay Vice Chairman

Caroline Pitt Clark Commissioner

March 18, 2008

PARTIES OF RECORD

Re: Case No. 2007-00464

Attached is a copy of the memorandum which is being filed in the record of the abovereferenced case. If you have any comments you would like to make regarding the contents of the informal conference memorandum, please do so within 5 days of the date of this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Tiffany Bowman at (502) 564-3940, Ext. 465, or TiffanyJ.Bowman@ky.gov.

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Stephahie Stumbo Executive Director



An Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/D

INTRA-AGENCY MEMORANDUM

KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

TO: Case File

- FROM: Tiffany Bowman Staff Attorney
- **DATE:** March 18, 2008
- SUBJECT: Case No. 2007-00464 Informal Conference

Pursuant to the Commission Staff's notice on February 6, 2008, an informal conference was held in this matter on March 17, 2008. A copy of the conference attendance list is attached.

The purpose of the conference was to discuss the funding mechanisms for the telecommunications relay service ("TRS") and the telecommunications access program ("TAP").

During the informal conference, the parties discussed the implications of T-Mobile's February 8, 2008 letter to the Commission's Executive Director, which outlined the possible need for the Commission to promulgate regulations in order to expand the funding bases for TRS or TAP. The Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing ("KCDHH") stated that the TAP statute, KRS 278.5499, was inclusive and applicable to all telecommunications utilities.

The parties discussed possible procedures for the remainder of this case, including setting a hearing date, issuing data requests, and submitting prefiled testimony. Commission Staff stated that if wireless customers began contributing both TRS and TAP surcharges, Commission Staff may consider asking the Commission to consider reducing the TRS surcharge, as the additional contributions could possibly cause the receipt of funds larger than what is required to support the program.

KCDHH stated that there is currently a provision in the General Assembly's budget bill to provide another 2-year increase of the TAP surcharge to \$0.02, above the statutory \$0.01.

T-Mobile suggested that the issue of promulgating regulations may only be applicable to the base expansion of the TRS surcharge and not to the base expansion of the TAP surcharge.

Intra-Agency Memorandum March 18, 2008 Page 2

The parties discussed whether the Commission would order expansions of the funding bases for TRS and TAP separately, when and if a hearing or regulations were needed for TAP. Commission Staff stated that it preferred keeping both surcharges procedurally aligned and that any changes be ordered to occur simultaneously. AT&T stated that carriers may also prefer that any surcharge changes occur simultaneously so as to avoid confusion or questions by customers if they notice 2 separate billing changes – one for TRS and another change for TAP – at different times.

The Attorney General stated that the record in this matter needed to be completed and should include testimony prior to the Commission entering any final orders.

The parties agreed to the following comment schedule:

- KCDHH and other parties may submit responses to T-Mobile's February 8 letter by March 31, 2008. Commission Staff asked the parties to address the competitive advantages or disadvantages of assessing the TRS and TAP surcharges only upon wireline customers. KCDHH also stated that in its response it may address whether it will amend its petition so as to refer only to an expansion of the TAP funding base and without reference to TRS.
- Any party may submit replies to the responses. Replies are due by April 14, 2008.
- After review of all comments, Commission Staff will ask the Commission to issue a procedural schedule for the remainder of this case.

The informal conference was then adjourned.

Attachment

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

CASE NO. 2007-00464

PETITION OF THE KENTUCKY COMMISSION ON THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING TO EXPAND THE FUNDING BASE FOR THE KENTUCKY TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS PROGRAM

<u>SIGN IN</u>

PERSON SUMAN n_{m} NANO JUDA 777 102)res MARK Ash Ahita Honstein

March 17, 2008

REPRESENTING PSC STAFF KCNHH - 14h OMAUL 1462 Venizon Wireless T-Mobile ATT Wireless 1 AT! T Wireless

Case NO. 2007-00464 March 17, 2008

PERSON	REPRESENTING
Tom JANA Kowski	ATET whreless
Tom JANA Kowski Kim Barrin	AT! T wireless

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