

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

PETITION OF ABSOLUTE HOME PHONES,)
INC. FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE) CASE NO. 2009-00407
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER IN THE)
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY)

FIRST DATA REQUEST OF COMMISSION STAFF
TO ABSOLUTE HOME PHONES, INC.

Absolute Home Phones, Inc. ("Absolute"), pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, is to file with the Commission the original and 10 copies of the following information, with a copy to all parties of record. The information requested herein is due on or before September 30, 2010. Responses to requests for information shall be appropriately bound, tabbed and indexed. Each response shall include the name of the witness responsible for responding to the questions related to the information provided.

Each response shall be answered under oath or, for representatives of a public or private corporation or a partnership or association or a governmental agency, be accompanied by a signed certification of the preparer or person supervising the preparation of the response on behalf of the entity that the response is true and accurate to the best of that person's knowledge, information, and belief formed after a reasonable inquiry.

Absolute shall make timely amendment to any prior response if it obtains information which indicates that the response was incorrect when made or, though correct when made, is now incorrect in any material respect. For any request to which Absolute fails or refuses

to furnish all or part of the requested information, Absolute shall provide a written explanation of the specific grounds for its failure to completely and precisely respond.

Careful attention should be given to copied material to ensure that it is legible. When the requested information has been previously provided in this proceeding in the requested format, reference may be made to the specific location of that information in responding to this request. When applicable, the requested information shall be separately provided for total company operations and jurisdictional operations.

1. Is Kentucky the only state in which Absolute currently operates? If not, list the states.
2. List all states in which Absolute has received Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”) status. Also list all pending ETC petitions, with docket numbers and the state in which the designation is requested.
3. Has Absolute filed for ETC status in any state and subsequently withdrawn the petition or been denied ETC status? If so, list the state, docket number and Absolute’s reason for seeking withdrawal of the petition for that state.
4. How many Kentucky residential and business customers does Absolute presently serve? Provide the number of residential and business customers and whether they are provided service through Unbundled Network Elements (“UNEs”) pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 251 commingled with 47 U.S.C. § 271 elements, resale, or wholesale local platform pursuant to a commercial agreement.
5. Does Absolute presently serve any Lifeline customers through resale in Kentucky?

6. If Absolute receives ETC designation in Kentucky, approximately how long will it take for Absolute to offer Lifeline service in the area in which it receives the ETC designation? Elaborate on any extenuating or special circumstances.

7. Do Absolute customers have access to competitive directory assistance providers, as defined as by 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(a)(8)? If not, explain why.

8. Absolute's tariff states that: "Customers will have access to local operator services within the limitations imposed by the presence of the underlying carrier's toll restriction and billed number screening services." Explain the purpose for this tariff policy.

9. Does Absolute understand that there may be an audit by the Commission of the use of universal service funds and that the eligible telecommunications service designation may be reviewed annually?

10. Has Absolute been audited by other state utility commissions regarding its use of universal service funds? If so, list the state and the result of the audit.

11. Does Absolute have any outstanding complaints at any state commissions or at the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC")? Provide detailed documentation of any complaint filed with a state commission or at the FCC in the past three years.

12. Provide a description of Absolute's corporate structure, with both names and titles. Also provide a list of Absolute's owners or corporate officers and indicate if any are also owners, corporate officers or employees of any other telecommunications companies.

13. Provide an example of a typical Absolute residential and business customer bill. What is the average residential bill in Kentucky?

14. Will Absolute seek toll limitation service reimbursement from Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC") if granted ETC status? If yes, provide a detailed

list of the incremental costs it will be claiming, along with a detailed description to support the amounts to be claimed.

15. Will Absolute seek Link-Up reimbursement from USAC if granted ETC status?

If yes, list the amount per customer Absolute would be claiming.

16. Will Absolute seek Lifeline reimbursement from USAC if granted ETC status?

If yes, list the amount per customer Absolute would be claiming.

17. Will Absolute seek Lifeline reimbursement from the Kentucky Universal Service Fund if granted ETC status? If yes, list the amount per customer Absolute would be claiming.

18. Are all Absolute's offerings bundled packages? Will Absolute provide the \$13.50 Lifeline discount to any bundle a customer chooses?

19. Does Absolute maintain separate books/general ledgers for each state in which it operates? Where are the books/general ledgers for Kentucky customers maintained? Provide the physical address, office phone number, and name and title of employee responsible for maintaining those books/ledgers.

20. Provide the number of requests for service from potential customers in Kentucky that were unfulfilled by Absolute in the previous calendar year.

21. Provide the address (URL) to the Absolute website, if there is one.

22. What recurring and nonrecurring costs will a new Lifeline customer incur from becoming an Absolute customer over the period of a year?

23. Provide any resale or commercial agreements you currently have in Kentucky with other telecommunications carriers and include signed evidence of the agreements, along with invoices detailing both UNE and resale charges.

24. Describe the process by which Absolute orders a 47 U.S.C. § 251 loop and commingles it with 47 U.S.C. § 271 elements to provide service. Provide copies of orders or contracts that show the process.

25. As a condition of receiving local service, are Absolute residential customers required to subscribe to Absolute long-distance services?

26. Describe Absolute's local usage plans pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(a)(2). If phone service is offered in a bundled package, describe and enumerate the wireline local component (charge for local phone service) on which universal service compensation would be based.

27. Does Absolute understand that any resold Lifeline or Link-Up service purchased through another carrier cannot be claimed by Absolute for reimbursement from USAC?

28. Provide the name of the person (with business title) and/or entity that will be filing the Form 497 with USAC if Absolute obtains ETC status.

29. Does Absolute provide service to its customers via a prepaid service? If so, what percentage of its customers receive their service via a prepaid service?

30. Provide Absolute's purpose for requesting ETC status in Kentucky. What does the company hope to achieve? Why not just purchase resale Lifeline access lines from your underlying carrier if the purpose of ETC designation is solely to provide Lifeline and Link-Up?

31. Have any owners, officers, or managers of Absolute been involved in any bankruptcy proceedings? If so, provide details as to the name of the person, the date on

which the petition was filed, the case number and the name of the federal court district where the petition was filed.

32. Have any owners, officers, or managers of Absolute been charged or convicted of a criminal offense during the last 10 years (either state or federal)? If so, provide details as to the name of the person, the dates of each charge, the case number and the name of the state or federal court district where the charges or convictions occurred.

33. Identify any civil litigation in which an Absolute owner, officer, or manager has been deposed or has been a plaintiff, a defendant, or a witness within the last 10 years.

34. Are customers who reconnect service with the company required to pay the past-due bill and a reconnection fee prior to receiving service? Are Lifeline customers allowed to pay past-due amounts over time? If so, describe the terms of such payments. Are Lifeline customers charged a reconnection fee?

35. Does Absolute use agents or other retailers to market and sell its service? Provide a list.

36. Describe the process that Absolute intends to use to sign up customers for Lifeline. Will Absolute verify the customer's eligibility in the designated programs?

37. Will Absolute be willing to advertise Lifeline and Link-Up availability in other languages beside English? If yes, name the other languages.

38. Does Absolute have any telecommunications facilities used to provide local exchange service? If so, give a description and location.

39. Will Absolute be using any subcontractors (operations, call centers, etc.) to provide the required services? If so, provide the name of each company and physical address.

40. On page 7 of the application, Absolute states that “[t]he FCC has concluded that even pure resellers may qualify as an ETC and properly use universal service support for the purposes for which it was intended by offering reduced price Lifeline Service.” Why did Absolute include this comment in its application? Does Absolute propose not to meet the facilities-based requirements under 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1)(a)?

41. On page 9 of the application, Absolute states that, as of December 31, 2006, fewer than 20 percent of consumers eligible for Lifeline and Link-Up services in Kentucky were being provided such services. Does Absolute have any more recent statistics? If yes, provide the name of the source of those statistics and the date of the publication of those statistics.

42. On page 9 of the application, Absolute states that it is willing to accept Carrier of Last Resort obligations throughout the universal service areas in which Absolute is designated an ETC by the Commission. Provide details of how Absolute would accomplish Carrier of Last Resort obligations.

43. On page 9 of the application, Absolute states that it will provide equal access to interexchange service. Does Absolute offer pre-subscription to other interexchange carriers?


44. Absolute is currently registered as a long-distance carrier in Kentucky. Does Absolute intend to provide long-distance service and does Absolute intend to file a tariff?

45. Absolute’s tariff states: “The Company’s service cannot be used to access interexchange carriers for interLATA, intraLATA, interstate, or international calling or access caller-paid information services (e.g., 900, 976). All 1+, 0+, 0-, and other numbers used for

caller-paid services will be blocked by the Company through the underlying carrier's switch." On page 6 of the application, Absolute states that it provides long-distance service to its customers. Explain the discrepancy.

46. Does Absolute understand that Kentucky allows consumers to qualify for Lifeline only under certain income guidelines?

47. Kentucky currently requires that all ETCs perform an audit of all customers receiving Lifeline benefits. Each customer must provide proof of eligibility. Does Absolute agree to audit all Lifeline customers each year rather than conduct a yearly audit of only a sample of customers?



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cc: Parties of Record

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