

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

* * * * *

In the Matter of

THE COMPLAINT OF MRS. DOUG)
POTTER AGAINST SOUTH CENTRAL)
BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY)

CASE NO. 8949

O R D E R

On September 6, 1983, the Commission received a letter from Mrs. Doug Potter, Central City, Kentucky, concerning her efforts to obtain telephone service from South Central Bell Telephone Company (South Central Bell). Mrs. Potter states that South Central Bell informed her that it would provide 700 feet of wire and 300 feet of trenching. The total need was for 1,910 feet of wire on the property of Mrs. Potter; therefore, Mrs. Potter would be responsible for purchasing 1,210 feet of wire and subsequent trenching at a total cost of \$4,768.89. If South Central Bell did the wiring, trenching and associated work the total cost is \$5,364.59. Mrs. Potter questions the reasonableness of the charges by South Central Bell since she will do the inside wiring and open and close the trench. The letter is attached hereto (Appendix A).

On November 2, 1983, the Commission received a letter from South Central Bell stating that, according to the provisions of its tariff, the customer is responsible for the cost of construction beyond 700 feet. The letter sets forth the options available to Mrs. Potter and is attached hereto (Appendix B).

Mrs. Potter has requested that a hearing be scheduled to consider the complaint.

The Commission, having considered the correspondence and being advised, HEREBY ORDERS that this matter be and it hereby is set for hearing on January 25, 1984, at 1:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, in the Commission's offices at Frankfort, Kentucky.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that South Central Bell shall appear at the hearing and present testimony relative to this matter.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 29th day of December, 1983.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


For the Commission

ATTEST:

Secretary

Appendix A

Rt. 2,
Central City, Ky. 42330
Sept. 5, 1983

RECEIVED

SEP 06 1983

Public Service Commission
Consumer Service Section
Box 615
Frankfort, Ky. 40602

DIVISION OF UTILITY
ENGINEERING & SERVICES

Dear Sir:

I am writing concerning a recent request I made for a South Central Bell Telephone installation in my residential home. My husband and I live in northeast Muhlenberg County on State Road 1379. Our farm lane is .4 of a mile long. A Bell installer came out then a Bell engineer, then I got the final cost information from the Louisville office (444-9008, Ann S.). They informed me that they would provide 700 feet of wire, 300 feet of trenching. Our total need was for 1,910 feet of wire on our property, with the provided 700 feet that meant we would have to purchase 1,210 feet of wire and subsequent trenching. If Bell did all of the wiring, trenching, etc. the tab was \$5,364.59. If we did the trenching the tab was \$4,768.89.

Those are all of the facts that I have on the case. My question is since we are going to do all the inside wiring on the house, open and close the trench, and generally do the great majority of work and installation, what is South Central Bell doing to earn this hefty \$4,768.89. This is a far cry from reasonable affordability. As rural Kentuckians, we feel we are once again being isolated.

Isolation is hardly the word. This avenue of communications is vital. We have a young baby, our parents are older and live in other parts of the state, our ag. business depends on calling in feed and supply orders, and my career as a substitute teacher has come to a halt due to this situation. Living 9 miles from the nearest pay telephone booth, you can well imagine the many times we run into problems. I could go on and on with examples of our need, but I'm sure you understand.

I would greatly appreciate your reviewing this case and bringing it to Mrs. Laura Morrell's attention. I am willing to write more letters, come to Frankfort for hearings, or whatever it takes to expedite this situation. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Wanda Potter
(Mrs. Doug Potter)

Appendix B

Cruise C. Braswell, Jr.
Assistant Vice President—Public Affairs

October 26, 1983

Mr. Claude G. Rhorer, Jr., Director
Division of Utility Engineering
and Services
Public Service Commission
730 Schenkel Lane
P. O. Box 615
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Mr. Rhorer:

This is in reference to the letter from Mrs. Doug Potter of Central City, Kentucky.

The Potters' residence is located where there are no facilities to provide them with service. Before service can be installed, it will be necessary to place 1910 feet of buried wire on private property. As Mrs. Potter mentioned in her letter, South Central Bell will place 700 feet of wire and provide 300 feet of trenching at no charge. According to our tariff, however, the customer is to be responsible for the cost of construction beyond those points. The premise of this tariff is that is not fair to require other ratepayers to bear the cost of constructing facilities on private property. Listed below are the options the Potters have for payment of the construction charges:

- 1) Payment of a standard one-time charge of \$5,364.59 if the customer chooses to have the telephone company provide the additional 1,210 feet of wire and open and backfill the 1,610 feet of trench beyond the first 300 feet, or
- 2) Payment of a standard one-time charge of \$4,768.89 for 1,210 feet of 1E1 wire if the customer will open and close all necessary trenching beyond the first 300 feet, or
- 3) Payment of a one-time charge of \$1,939.55 plus a monthly charge of \$44.29 if the customer chooses to have the telephone company provide the additional 1,210 feet of wire and open and backfill the 1,610 feet of trench beyond the first 300 feet, or

Potter, Doug
Central City



South Central Bell
RECEIVED

P. O. Box 32430
Louisville, Kentucky 40232
Phone (502) 582-8415

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DIVISION OF UTILITIES
ENGINEERING & SERVICES

Mr. Claude G. Rhorer, Jr.

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- 4) Payment of a one-time charge of \$1,343.85 plus a monthly charge of \$44.29 for the additional 1,210 feet of 1E1 wire if the customer will provide the trenching and backfill beyond the first 300 feet.

With the impact of inflation and rise in construction costs over the last ten years, the ratepayers can no longer be expected to subsidize the high cost of those few who choose to locate their residences long distances from telephone facilities.

If I can provide further information, please let me know.

Yours very truly,



SLG