

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

THE APPLICATION OF WEST KENTUCKY RURAL)
TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE CORPORATION, INC.)
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND) CASE NO. 9825
NECESSITY AUTHORIZING IT TO CONSTRUCT)
ADDITIONAL TELEPHONE LINES AND OTHER)
FACILITIES)

O R D E R

On December 22, 1986, West Kentucky Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("WKRTCC" or "Cooperative") filed its application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct additional telephone lines and other facilities. On June 19, 1987, an Interim Order was issued granting approval for part of the proposed construction, specifically the replacement of buried cable as proposed in the application. In response to WKRTCC's request for interim approval filed on August 31, 1987, an Order was issued on October 2, 1987, authorizing replacement of all control office switching equipment. WKRTCC was requested to make no commitments with respect to its planned toll rearrangement.

On October 15, 1987, WKRTCC filed a Motion, by counsel, to modify the Interim Order dated October 2, 1987. WKRTCC moved the Commission to strike from page 4 of the October 2 Order the following sentence:

No commitments should be made with respect to these investments pending specific Commission authorization.

Additionally, the Cooperative moved the Commission to strike paragraph 3 of the Findings and the correlating paragraph 3 of the Orders. It reads:

WKRTCC shall make no commitments with respect to investments in microwave equipment and/or related investments, or any equipment designed to transport toll traffic to the Folsomdale exchange for the purpose of concentrating toll traffic in that exchange, pending specific Commission authorization.

In support of its motion, WKRTCC has indicated that equipment and installation personnel were already working and that a shutdown of the project will result in increased costs and scheduling delays. The Commission is of the opinion that no grounds exist to grant the motion and it should be denied. However, the Commission does recognize the hardship that a shutdown will create. In addition, it appears that the toll reconfiguration will be of benefit to the Cooperative's members. This toll reconfiguration will be accomplished by the construction of microwave and digital carrier facilities. In addition to providing toll transmission, these facilities will be used to provide centralized administration and maintenance capabilities. Therefore, the Commission will authorize WKRTCC to proceed with the construction as planned. The Commission is concerned, however, that this type of toll reconfiguration may not be beneficial to the statewide toll network and therefore plans to institute a generic proceeding on the issue of statewide network planning in the near future.

FINDINGS AND ORDERS

The Commission, being advised, is of the opinion and finds that:

1. WKRTCC's motion to amend the Commission's October 2, 1987, Order should be denied.

2. WKRTCC should be granted a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct microwave facilities and related equipment as described in its application.

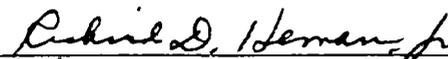
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. WKRTCC's motion, be and it hereby is denied.

2. WKRTCC be, and it hereby is, granted a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct microwave facilities and related equipment as described in its application.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 16th day of October, 1987.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Chairman


Vice Chairman


Commissioner

ATTEST:

Executive Director