

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

THE TARIFF FILING OF AT&T)	
COMMUNICATIONS OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL)	
STATES, INC. TO ESTABLISH)	CASE NO. 89-151
MULTIQUEST SERVICE)	

O R D E R

On May 12, 1989, AT&T Communications of the South Central States, Inc. ("AT&T") made a tariff filing to establish Multiquest Service. On June 6, 1989, South Central Bell Telephone Company ("South Central Bell") filed a motion to intervene. On June 16, 1989, the Commission suspended the tariff filing for the purpose of investigation and granted South Central Bell's motion to intervene. On July 7, 1989, AT&T filed correspondence with the Commission asking for reconsideration of the decision to suspend and investigate the tariff filing. On July 24, 1989, South Central Bell filed a response to AT&T's correspondence.

Discussion

Multiquest Service is a custom switched inward bound toll service that permits interactive communication between voice and data information providers and end-users via a 900 number from locations throughout the Commonwealth. Various recurring and non-recurring charges apply to dial-it service vendors. Usage and premium charges apply to end-users.

Among other concerns, the Commission suspended the Multiquest Service tariff filing in order to investigate certain provisions

of the tariff that could lead to abuse by dial-it service vendors and abuse of the billing and collection services process. However, AT&T has indicated its willingness to modify the tariff filing to accommodate the Commission's concerns¹ and South Central Bell has withdrawn its request for an investigation.² AT&T and South Central Bell are the only parties to this case. Accordingly, in the opinion of the Commission, the matter can be resolved without further investigation or public hearing.

The Commission will approve the MultiQuest Service tariff filing subject to the terms and conditions discussed below.

First, MultiQuest Service can generate unauthorized intraLATA³ traffic. Therefore, the Commission will approve MultiQuest Service subject to the same conditions that apply to other service offerings that can generate unauthorized intraLATA

¹ Letter from Charles S. Willis, Assistant Vice President, AT&T to Forest M. Skaggs, Executive Director, Public Service Commission, filed July 7, 1989.

² Response of South Central Bell to the Letter of Charles S. Willis, filed July 24, 1989.

³ Local Access and Transport Area.

traffic.⁴ These conditions are compensation for unauthorized intraLATA traffic and the filing of periodic usage reports.

Second, Multiquest Service is terminated over a dedicated serving arrangement. As a result, AT&T can avoid ULAS⁵ charges. Therefore, the Commission will approve Multiquest Service subject to the condition that applies to other non-private line service offerings that terminate over dedicated serving arrangements.⁶ That condition is that originating switched access minutes of use will substitute for terminating switched access minutes of use in the ULAS allocation process.

⁴ See Case No. 9519, AT&T Communications' Tariff Proposal for Software Defined Network Service; Case No. 9874, AT&T Tariff Filing Proposing Megacom/Megacom 800 Service; Case No. 9902, US Sprint's Tariff Filing Proposing to Rename its WATS Products, Change Billing Calculation Methods for WATS, Introduce UltraWATS, Travelcard, Direct 800, and Ultra 800; Case No. 9928, MCI's Tariff Filing to Establish Prism Plus, Prism I, and Prism II Service; Case No. 10049, MCI's Tariff Filing to Introduce Metered Use Service Option H; Case No. 10106, AT&T Tariff Filing Proposing AT&T 800 Readyline Service; Case No. 89-002, US Sprint Fonline 800 Service; Case No. 89-010, US Sprint's Banded WATS Service Tariff Filing; Case No. 89-011, MCI Telecommunications Corporation's Tariff Filing to Establish Vnet Service; Case No. 89-037, The Tariff Filing of LiTel Telecommunications Corporation to Establish Carrier Express II Service; Case No. 89-083, The Tariff Filing of LiTel Telecommunications Corporation to Establish National 800 Service; Case No. 89-147, The Tariff Filing of LiTel Telecommunications Corporation to Establish National Dedicated 800 Service. WATS is an acronym for Wide Area Telecommunications Service.

⁵ Universal Local Access Service.

⁶ See Administrative Case No. 311, Investigation of InterLATA Carrier Billed Minutes of Use as a ULAS Allocator, Order dated September 29, 1988, page 9, footnote 12 and page 19, footnote 32.

Third, the Commission will approve MultiQuest Service provided that the tariff filing is modified to state that the service will not be used to transmit messages of an obscene nature. This is consistent with provisions in other dial-it service tariffs.⁷

Finally, premium charges paid to dial-it service vendors represent charges for nonregulated services. Therefore, the Commission will approve MultiQuest Service subject to the conditions that local exchange service cannot be disconnected for nonpayment and partial payments must be credited to regulated services before being applied to nonregulated charges. This is consistent with decisions in other cases involving nonregulated charges billed to end-users by local exchange carriers.⁸

Findings and Orders

The Commission, having considered the MultiQuest Service tariff filing and being sufficiently advised, is of the opinion and finds that:

1. A public hearing in this matter is not necessary.
2. The MultiQuest Service tariff filing should be approved, effective the date of this Order, subject to the terms and conditions discussed herein.

⁷ For example, South Central Bell, PSC Ky. Tariff 2A, General Subscriber Services Tariff, Section A13.18.1.B.13.

⁸ For example, Administrative Case No. 305, Detariffing the Installation and Maintenance of Inside Wire, Order dated December 24, 1986, page 15.

3. Local exchange carriers should be compensated for any unauthorized intraLATA traffic associated with Multiquest Service.

4. AT&T should measure and report interstate and intrastate jurisdictional usage and interLATA and intraLATA usage associated with Multiquest Service and file usage reports with the Commission on a quarterly basis.

5. Originating switched access minutes of use associated with Multiquest Service should substitute for terminating switched access minutes of use in the ULAS allocation process.

6. The Multiquest Service tariff filing should be amended to state that the service will not be used to transmit messages of an obscene nature.

7. Local exchange service should not be disconnected for nonpayment of premium charges associated with Multiquest Service.


8. Partial payments should be credited to regulated services before being applied to nonregulated services.

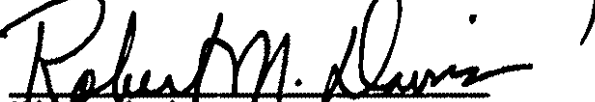
9. AT&T should file revised Multiquest Service tariff pages within 30 days from the date of this Order.

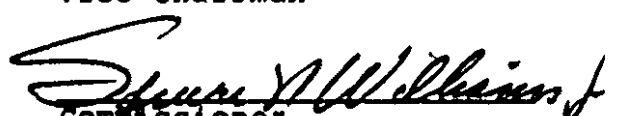
Accordingly, the above findings are HEREBY ORDERED.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 22nd day of August, 1989.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Chairman


Vice Chairman


Commissioner

ATTEST:

Executive Director