

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT OF )  
INFORMATION FILED WITH SOUTH CENTRAL ) CASE NO. 95-075  
BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY'S PROPOSED )  
CONTRACT WITH ADVANTIS )

O R D E R

This matter arising upon petition of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. d/b/a South Central Bell Telephone Company ("South Central Bell"), filed February 23, 1995, pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, Section 7, for confidential protection of the cost support data developed in connection with South Central Bell's special service arrangement contract with Advantis General Partnership ("Advantis") for four-wire AccuPulse® service on the grounds that disclosure of the information is likely to cause South Central Bell competitive injury, and it appearing to this Commission as follows:

On March 24, 1993, South Central Bell sought approval of a contract with Advantis to provide four-wire AccuPulse® service. The contract is a master agreement designed to cover all of the customers' locations in the BellSouth serving area. The actual Kentucky circuit covered by the agreement is in Louisville and the contract was approved by the Commission effective April 23, 1993. On November 16, 1993, South Central Bell sought approval of a contract which provided an additional circuit in Pikeville. That contract was approved effective December 15, 1993. In this

proceeding, South Central Bell is asking for approval of another contract with Advantis which adds a four-wire AccuPulse® circuit in Paris. In support of the most recent agreement for which approval is sought, South Central Bell has provided cost information which it seeks to protect as confidential.

The information sought to be protected is not known outside South Central Bell and is not disseminated within South Central Bell except to those employees who have a legitimate business need to know and act upon the information. South Central Bell seeks to preserve and protect the confidentiality of the information through all appropriate means, including the maintenance of appropriate security at its offices.

KRS 61.872(1) requires information filed with the Commission to be available for public inspection unless specifically exempted by statute. Exemptions from this requirement are provided in KRS 61.878(1). That section of the statute exempts 11 categories of information. One category exempted in subparagraph (c) of that section is commercial information confidentially disclosed to the Commission. To qualify for that exemption, it must be established that disclosure of the information is likely to cause substantial competitive harm to the party from whom the information was obtained. To satisfy this test, the party claiming confidentiality must demonstrate actual competition and a likelihood of substantial competitive injury if the information is disclosed. Competitive injury occurs when disclosure of the information gives competitors an unfair business advantage.

AccuPulse® service is an alternative to dedicated private line networks and utilizes the exchange switching network. South Central Bell's competitors for this service are providers of microwave service, digital radio, and fiber networks. The information sought to be protected would permit South Central Bell's competitors to determine South Central Bell's cost and contribution from the service which the competitors could use in marketing their own services. Therefore, disclosure of the information is likely to cause South Central Bell competitive injury, and the information should be protected as confidential.

This Commission being otherwise sufficiently advised,

IT IS ORDERED that the cost support data developed by South Central Bell in connection with a special service arrangement contract with Advantis for four-wire AccuPulse® service, which South Central Bell has petitioned to be withheld from public disclosure, shall be held and retained by this Commission as confidential and shall not be open for public inspection.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 20th day of March, 1995.

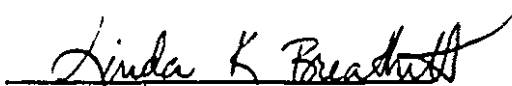
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

  
Chairman

  
Vice Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director

  
Commissioner