COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

THE APPLICATION OF METRACOM CORPORATION D/B/A SOLMON CORP. FOR A CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO PROVIDE COMPETITIVE INTRASTATE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

CASE NO. 96-316

<u>ORDER</u>

This matter arising upon the petition of Metracom Corporation d/b/a Solmon Corp. ("Solmon"), filed July 3, 1996, for confidential protection of the financial information contained in Exhibit D to its application on the grounds that disclosure of the information is likely to cause the parties irreparable injury and it appearing to this Commission as follows:

Solmon has applied for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to provide intrastate telecommunications service in this state. In support of its application, Solmon has provided financial information which it seeks to protect as confidential on the grounds that disclosure of the information is likely to cause them competitive injury.

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). The procedure for obtaining confidential protection of information filed with the Commission is provided in regulation 807 KAR 5:001, Section 7. That regulation sets forth specific procedural requirements which must be complied with before confidential protection can be granted. Included is a requirement that edited copies of the documents containing the information for which confidentiality is sought, be filed which obscure the information sought to be protected. Additionally, the Commission has required that parties seeking protection on the grounds that disclosure is likely to cause competitive injury identify those competitors who would benefit from the information and describe how the information could be used to the detriment of the petitioner. The petition filed by Solmon does not satisfy the procedural requirements of the regulation, nor does it satisfy the substantive requirements of the statute. Therefore, the information cannot be protected as confidential.

This Commission being otherwise sufficiently advised,

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The petition to protect as confidential the financial information filed as Exhibit D in support of the application is hereby denied.

2. The information sought to be protected shall be held and retained by this Commission as confidential and shall not be open for public inspection for a period of 20 days from the date of this Order to allow Solmon an opportunity to file a petition in accordance with the applicable statute and regulation.

3. If at the expiration of the 20-day period no petition has been filed, the information shall be placed in the public record without further orders herein.

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Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 16th day of July, 1996.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Linder K Breathett Chairman

Vice Chairman

Commissioner

ATTEST:

Executive Director