

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

PETITION OF CINCINNATI BELL)
TELEPHONE COMPANY FOR EXEMPTIONS) CASE NO.
UNDER KRS 278.512) 97-407

ORDER

On September 22, 1997, Cincinnati Bell Telephone Company ("CBT") submitted a letter to the Executive Director of the Commission requesting an exemption under KRS 278.512 from the Commission's orders in Case No. 8838, Phase I,¹ and Administrative Case No. 306.² The Commission will treat the letter as a petition.

On December 19, 1991, the Commission issued an Order in Case Nos. 8838 and 306 that, among other things, denied a modification of billing format proposed by CBT. CBT had asked to include a statement on its nonregulated billing pages to the effect that nonpayment of the nonregulated charges would be subject to further collection activity or would be referred to a collection agency. This language was to be added to a disclaimer ordered by the Commission that said that local telephone service would not be disconnected for nonpayment of nonregulated services. The Commission denied CBT's proposal, reasoning that the modification would detract from the goal of adequately notifying customers of their rights concerning disconnection of local service.

¹ Case No. 8838, Phase I, An Investigation of Toll and Access Charge Pricing and Toll Settlement Agreements for Telephone Utilities Pursuant to Changes to be Effective January 1, 1984.

² Administrative Case No. 306, Detariffing Billing and Collection Services.

In this case CBT has asked the Commission for exemption under KRS 278.512 to allow it to add the language to its bill to be consistent with a rule of the Ohio Public Utilities Commission allowing such a statement. CBT notes in its motion it has a single billing system for both its Ohio and Kentucky customers and maintains a uniform bill for both states.

Although CBT has asked for an exemption under KRS 278.512, it has not addressed the factors the Commission must consider to grant an exemption under that statute. However, the Commission need not refer to KRS 278.512 to modify a requirement stated in its own Orders.

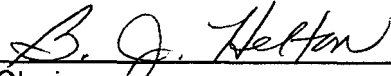
The Commission finds that the request is reasonable, given CBT's desire to maintain a uniform billing system. Moreover, addition of the statement in question is not inconsistent with the public interest, for it would simply advise customers of possible action that could be taken in the event of nonpayment. This advisory provides the customer with more information regarding nonregulated billing and does not change the notification that local service will not be disconnected for nonpayment of nonregulated charges.

The Commission having been otherwise sufficiently advised, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. CBT may add to its nonregulated billing pages the statement proposed in its petition.
2. CBT shall file with the Commission a copy of its bill after the statement is added.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 5th day of December, 1997.

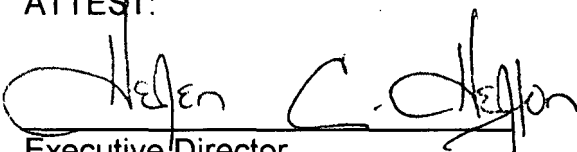
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Chairman


Vice Chairman


Commissioner

ATTEST:


Executive Director