COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

AN INQUIRY INTO THE STATE) CASE NO. UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND) 2016-00059

ORDER

On February 1, 2016, the Commission, on its own motion, initiated this administrative proceeding to investigate the current and future funding, distribution, and administration of the Kentucky Universal Service Fund ("KUSF"), which provides supplemental support for authorized telecommunications carriers that also participate in the federal Lifeline program. The Commission stated that the need for the investigation arose from the projected depletion of the KUSF by April 2016, at which time the fund will no longer be able to meet its monthly obligation, absent action to increase funding or reduce spending. The Commission named as parties the Attorney General's office; all Local Exchange Carriers; all commercial mobile radio service providers; and all eligible telecommunications carriers, and established a procedural schedule providing for the filing of testimony by parties, discovery, and an opportunity for a hearing.

In initiating this investigation, the Commission's February 1, 2016 Order cited the need to maintain the solvency of the KUSF and proposed to either temporarily raise the KUSF per-line surcharge from \$0.08 to \$0.14 or to temporarily lower the amount of state support. Any comments addressing either proposal were required to be filed no later than February 22, 2016.

The Commission received a total of nine joint and/or individual comments from the parties to the case, as well as three comments from members of the public. Four joint and/or individual comments¹ expressed support for the Commission's proposal to temporarily raise the per-line monthly surcharge from \$0.08 to \$0.14. Three joint/and or individual comments² were neutral regarding the proposed Commission action. Only East Kentucky Wireless, LLC d/b/a Appalachian Wireless supported reducing the KUSF support to \$2.00. The Attorney General proposed applying the "principles of gradualism," and suggested that the Commission increase the surcharge to \$0.12 and decrease the amount of KUSF support to \$2.75.

Based upon the recommendations, the Commission finds that the surcharge should be raised to \$0.14 on an interim basis while this proceeding is pending. We base our decision on a variety of factors, most notably the proportional impact of the increase in the surcharge versus a decrease in support. A six-cent increase in an average wireless customer's monthly bill is an approximate 0.13 percent increase. By comparison, a \$1.50 decrease in the amount of state support would result in a

¹ These comments are: 1) The joint comments of Airvoice Wireless, American Broadband and Telecommunications Company, Blue Jay Wireless, LLC, Budget Wireless, i-wireless LLC, Ready Wireless, and Telrite Corporation; 2) The joint comments of Ballard Rural Telephone Cooperative Corporation, Inc., Brandenburg Telephone Cooperative Corporation, Inc., Gearheart Communications Company, Inc., Duo County Telephone Cooperative Corporation, Inc., Foothills Rural Telephone Cooperative Corporation, Inc., Highland Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Logan Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Mountain Rural Telephone Cooperative Corporation, Inc., South Central Telephone Cooperative Corporation, Peoples Rural Telephone Cooperative Corporation, Inc., South Central Rural Telephone Cooperative Corporation, Inc., Thacker-Grigsby Telephone Company, Inc., and West Kentucky Rural Telephone Cooperative Corporation, Inc., 3) The individual comments of Cincinnati Bell Telephone Company LLC; and 4) The individual comments of Total Call Mobile, Inc.

² These comments are: 1) The joint comments of McLeodUSA Telecommunications Services, LLC, Network Telephone, LLC, Talk America, LLC, The Other Phone Company, LLC, US LEC of Tennessee, LLC, Windstream Communications, LLC, PAETEC Communications, LLC, Windstream KDL, LLC, Windstream Kentucky East, LLC, Windstream Kentucky West, LLC, Windstream Norlight, LLC, Windstream NTI, LLC, and Windstream NuVox, LLC; 2) The individual comments of BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC d/b/a AT&T Kentucky; and 3) The joint comments of MCIMetro Access Transmission Services LLC and CellCo Partnership.

significant rate increase in a Lifeline customer's bill. For example, Cincinnati Bell offers a Lifeline discount of \$12.75 per line for voice service. Cincinnati Bell offers basic local exchange service at \$18.30 a month, meaning that a Lifeline customer now pays approximately \$5.55 per month for basic service. A reduction of \$1.50 from the KUSF would lead to an approximate rate increase of 27 percent to the Lifeline customer's bill.

Also weighing heavily on our decision is that the majority of parties filing comments did not oppose the surcharge increase, and that the increase is temporary, pending the outcome of this investigation. We also note that a \$0.14 surcharge to support a state universal service fund is relatively modest compared to surcharges of other nearby states. For example, rather than a specific amount, Indiana and Illinois impose a monthly surcharge of 0.54 percent and 1.0941 percent respectively on the retail portions of a customers' bill. South Carolina imposes a surcharge of 2.6654 percent, and Georgia imposes one of 2.9 percent.

As in the past, for carriers maintaining tariffs with the Commission, this surcharge should be shown on the customer's bill as "Kentucky Lifeline Surcharge." Additionally, carriers that maintain tariffs with the Commission must submit to the Commission updated tariffs no later than March 15, 2016, to reflect the change in surcharge.

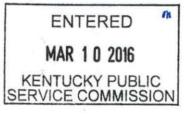
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. The surcharge for the Kentucky Lifeline Program shall, on an interim basis, be \$0.14 per access line per month beginning with bills rendered on and after the date of this Order, or, as soon as allowed by applicable contracts between customers and carriers.

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2. By March 15, 2016, where applicable, carriers shall submit tariff revisions to reflect this change.

By the Commission



ATTEST:

Acting Executive Director

Case No. 2016-00059

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*Metro FiberNet, LLC Metro FiberNet, LLC 3701 Communications Way Evansville, IN 47715 *Q Link Wireless, LLC Q Link Wireless, LLC 499 East Sheridan Street, Suite 400 Dania, FL 33004

*AltaWorx, LLC AltaWorx, LLC 22765 U.S. 98, Suite A Fairhope, AL 36532

*Matrix Telecom, Inc. dba Excel Telec dba VarTec Matrix Telecom, Inc. dba Excel 433 East Las Colinas Blvd, Suite 500 Irving, TX 75039

*Airus, Inc. Airus, Inc. 840 S Canal Street, 7th Floor Chicago, IL 60607

*ComTech 21, LLC ComTech 21, LLC One Barnes Park South Wallingford, CT 06492

*EnTelegent Solutions, Inc. EnTelegent Solutions, Inc. 3800 Arco Corporate Drive, Suite 310 Charlotte, NC 28273

*Flowroute Inc. Flowroute Inc. 1221 2nd Avenue, Suite 330 Seattle, WA 98101 *GC Pivotal, LLC GC Pivotal, LLC 180 N LaSalle, Suite 2430 Chicago, IL 60601

*Granite Telecommunications, LLC Granite Telecommunications, LLC 100 Newport Avenue Extension Quincy, MA 02171

*Granite Telecommunications, LLC Granite Telecommunications, LLC 100 Newport Avenue Extension Quincy, MA 02171

*West Safety Communications Inc. West Safety Communications Inc. 1601 Dry Creek Drive Longmont, CO 80503

*New Horizons Communications Corp. New Horizons Communications Corp. 420 Bedford Street, Suite 250 Lexington, MA 02420

*Boomerang Wireless, LLC Boomerang Wireless, LLC 955 Kacena Road, Suite A Hiawatha, IA 52233

*Total Call Mobile, Inc. Total Call Mobile, Inc. 1411 W 190th Street, Suite 650 Gardena, CA 90248 *Wide Voice, LLC Wide Voice, LLC 410 South Rampart, Suite 390 Las Vegas, NV 89145

*YMax Communications Corp. YMax Communications Corp. 222 Lakeview Avenue, Suite 1600 West Palm Beach, FL 33401

*Access Point, Inc. Access Point, Inc. 1100 Crescent Green, Suite 109 Cary, NC 27518

*Access Point, Inc. Access Point, Inc. 1100 Crescent Green, Suite 109 Cary, NC 27518

*Common Point, LLC Common Point, LLC 3243 Meadowbrook Springfield, IL 62711

*e-Tel, LLC dba e-Tel Murray, LLC e-Tel, LLC dba e-Tel Murray, LLC 607 Broadway Paducah, KY 42001

*Cintex Wireless, LLC Cintex Wireless, LLC 11426 Rockville Pike, Suite 230 Rockville, MD 20852 *Ballard Rural Telephone Cooperative Ballard Rural Telephone Cooperative Corporation, 159 W 2nd Street P. O. Box 209 La Center, KY 42056-0209

*Senior Tech, LLC d/b/a Snapfon Senior Tech, LLC d/b/a Snapfon 100 Cherokee Blvd, Suite 216 Chattanooga, TN 37405

*Comcast Phone of Kentucky, LLC d/b/a Comcast Phone of Kentucky, LLC d/b/a Comcast 1701 John F Kennedy Blvd, 4th Floor Philadelphia, PA 19103

*EarthLink Business, LLC EarthLink Business, LLC 2851 Charlevoix Drive SE, Suite 209 Grand Rapids, MI 49546

*Neutral Tandem-Kentucky, LLC Neutral Tandem-Kentucky, LLC 550 West Adams Street, Suite 900 Chicago, IL 60661

*Crown Castle NG Central, LLC Crown Castle NG Central, LLC 2000 Corporate Drive Canonsburg, PA 15317

*Lycamobile USA, Inc. Lycamobile USA, Inc. 24 Commerce Street, Suite 100 Newark, NJ 07102 *Beaver Telecom, LLC Beaver Telecom, LLC 1509 McDuffie Street Houston, TX 77019

*Foothills Rural Telephone Cooperativ Foothills Rural Telephone Cooperative 1621 Kentucky Route 40 W P. O. Box 240 Staffordsville, KY 41256

*Cellular Services, LLC Cellular Services, LLC 1621 KY Route 40W P. O. Box 240 Staffordsville, KY 41256

*Sunset Fiber, LLC Sunset Fiber, LLC 333 Fraley Avenue Duffield, VA 24244

*TracFone Wireless, Inc. TracFone Wireless, Inc. 9700 NW 112th Avenue Miami, FL 33178

*iCore Networks, Inc. iCore Networks, Inc. 7900 Westpark Drive, Suite A-315 McLean, VA 22102

*365 Wireless, LLC 365 Wireless, LLC 2870 Peachtree Road, Suite 951 Atlanta, GA 30305 *365 Wireless, LLC 365 Wireless, LLC 2870 Peachtree Road, Suite 951 Atlanta, GA 30305

*Nexus Communications, Inc. Nexus Communications, Inc. 3629 Cleveland Avenue, Suite C Columbus, OH 43224

*Nexus Communications, Inc. Nexus Communications, Inc. 3629 Cleveland Avenue, Suite C Columbus, OH 43224

*SI Wireless, LLC dba MobileNation dba Twigby SI Wireless, LLC dba MobileNation dba Twigby 1275 North Reed Station Road Carbondale, IL 62902

*Mountain Rural Telephone Cooperative Mountain Rural Telephone Cooperative 405 Main Street P. O. Box 399 West Liberty, KY 41472-0399

*OneTone Telecom, Inc. OneTone Telecom, Inc. 100 Century Plaza Suite 9-1 Seneca, SC 29672

*Defense Mobile Corporation Defense Mobile Corporation 518 Riverside Avenue Westport, CT 06880 *Broadvox-CLEC, LLC Broadvox-CLEC, LLC 75 Erieview Plaza, Suite 400 Cleveland, OH 44114

*Illinois Network Alliance, LLC dba B Illinois Network Alliance, LLC dba Bluebird 2005 W Broadway, Suite 110 Building A Columbia, MO 65203

*Cellco Partnership dba Verizon Wirel Cellco Partnership dba Verizon Wireless One Verizon Way Mailcode VC53S475 Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

*GTE Wireless of the Midwest dba Veri GTE Wireless of the Midwest dba Verizon One Verizon Way Mailcode VC53S475 Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

*Kentucky RSA #1 Partnership Kentucky RSA #1 Partnership One Verizon Way Mailcode VC53S475 Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

*New Par dba Verizon Wireless New Par dba Verizon Wireless One Verizon Way Mailcode VC53S475 Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

*Rural Cellular Corporation dba Verizon Wireless Rural Cellular Corporation dba Verizon Wireless One Verizon Way Mailcode VC53S475 Basking Ridge, NJ 07920 *Alltel Communications, LLC Alltel Communications, LLC One Verizon Way Mailcode VC53S475 Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

*Talk America Services, LLC Talk America Services, LLC 10802 Executive Center Drive Benton Building Little Rock, AR 72211

*CSL Kentucky System, LLC CSL Kentucky System, LLC 4001 N Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212

*PLATINUMTEL COMMUNICATIONS, LLC d/b/ PLATINUMTEL COMMUNICATIONS, LLC d/b/a 8108 South Roberts Road Justice, IL 60458

*Win.Net Telecommunications, Inc. Win.Net Telecommunications, Inc. 332 W Broadway, Suite 214 Louisville, KY 40202

*Easy Telephone Service Company dba E Easy Telephone Service Company dba Easy 4352 SE 95th Street Ocala, FL 34480

*PNG Telecommunications, Inc. dba Pow dba PNG Telecommunications, Inc. dba PowerNet 8805 Governor's Hill Drive Suite 250 Cincinnati, OH 45249 *PNG Telecommunications, Inc. dba Pow dba PNG Telecommunications, Inc. dba PowerNet 8805 Governor's Hill Drive Suite 250 Cincinnati, OH 45249

*Solavei, LLC Solavei, LLC 10500 NE 8th Street, Suite 1300 Bellevue, WA 98004

*West Kentucky Rural Telephone Cooper dba West Kentucky Rural Telephone Cooperative 237 North Eighth Street P. O. Box 649 Mayfield, KY 42066-0649

*NextGen Communications, Inc. NextGen Communications, Inc. 275 West Street, Suite 400 Annapolis, MD 21401

*CenturyLink Communications, LLC CenturyLink Communications, LLC 100 CenturyLink Drive Monroe, LA 71203

*Ted Heckman Managing Director, Regulatory & Government Cincinnati Bell Telephone Company 221 E Fourth Street, Room 103-1170 Cincinnati, OH 45202

*Cumberland Cellular, Inc. dba Duo Co Cumberland Cellular, Inc. dba Duo County 2150 N Main Street P. O. Box 80 Jamestown, KY 41269 *Wild Telecommunications, Inc. Wild Telecommunications, Inc. 220 Greenbriar Road Lexington, KY 40503

*AmeriVision Communications, Inc. d/b AmeriVision Communications, Inc. d/b/a Affinity 4 999 Waterside Drive, Suite 1910 Norfolk, VA 23510

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*BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC db BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC dba AT&T 601 W Chestnut Street 4th Floor East Louisville, KY 40203

*BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC db BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC dba AT&T 601 W Chestnut Street 4th Floor East Louisville, KY 40203

*Teleport Communications America, LLC Teleport Communications America, LLC 601 W Chestnut Street 4th Floor East Louisville, KY 40203 *BellSouth Long Distance, Inc. dba AT BellSouth Long Distance, Inc. dba AT&T Long 601 W Chestnut Street, Suite 408 Louisville, KY 40203

*Cricket Wireless, LLC Cricket Wireless, LLC 12735 Morris Road, Building 200 Alpharetta, GA 30004

*Access Fiber Group, Inc. Access Fiber Group, Inc. 201 Summit Parkway Birmingham, AL 35209

*Duo County Telephone Cooperative Cor Duo County Telephone Cooperative Corporation, 2150 N Main Street P. O. Box 80 Jamestown, KY 42629

*AT&T Corp. AT&T Corp. 601 W Chestnut Street 4th Floor East Louisville, KY 40203

*New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC dba A New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC dba AT&T 1010 N St Mary's Street, 9th Floor San Antonio, TX 78215

*Velocity Networks of Kentucky, Inc. Velocity Networks of Kentucky, Inc. 120 East Third Street Russellville, KY 42276 *Telecommunication Properties, Inc. Telecommunication Properties, Inc. 901 Main Street, Suite 2600 Dallas, TX 75202

*Time Warner Cable Information Servic d/b/a Time Time Warner Cable Information Services 13820 Sunrise Valley Drive Herndon, VA 20171

*i-Wireless, LLC i-Wireless, LLC 1 Levee Way, Suite 3104 Newport, KY 41071

*Eastern Telephone & Technologies Eastern Telephone & Technologies 106 Power Drive Pikeville, KY 41501

*Mitel Cloud Services, Inc. Mitel Cloud Services, Inc. 1146 N Alma School Road Mesa, AZ 85201

*Mitel Cloud Services, Inc. Mitel Cloud Services, Inc. 1146 N Alma School Road Mesa, AZ 85201

*Windstream Norlight, LLC Windstream Norlight, LLC 4001 Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212 *US LEC of Tennessee, LLC dba PAETEC US LEC of Tennessee, LLC dba PAETEC 4001 N Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212

*Windstream Kentucky West, LLC Windstream Kentucky West, LLC 4001 Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212

*Windstream NuVox, LLC Windstream NuVox, LLC 4001 Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212

*Talk America, LLC Talk America, LLC 4001 N Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212

*Network Telephone, LLC Network Telephone, LLC 4001 N Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212

*McLeodUSA Telecommunications Service McLeodUSA Telecommunications Services, LLC 4001 N Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212

*The Other Phone Company, LLC dba Access The Other Phone Company, LLC dba Access One 4001 N Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212 *Windstream Communications, LLC Windstream Communications, LLC 4001 Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212

*Windstream KDL, LLC Windstream KDL, LLC 4001 Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212

*PAETEC Communications, LLC PAETEC Communications, LLC 4001 N Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212

*Windstream NTI, LLC Windstream NTI, LLC 4001 Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212

*Windstream Kentucky East, LLC Windstream Kentucky East, LLC 4001 Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR 72212

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