

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

**ELECTRONIC INVESTIGATION OF THE)
PROPOSED POLE ATTACHMENT TARIFFS OF) CASE NO. 2022-00107
RURAL LOCAL EXCHANGE CARRIERS)**

RURAL LOCAL EXCHANGE CARRIERS' RESPONSES TO THE COMMISSION
STAFF'S SECOND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

Ballard Rural Telephone Cooperative Corporation (“Ballard” or the “Company”) by counsel, files its responses to the Commission Staff’s Second Requests for Information, issued in the above-captioned case on May 19, 2022.

FILED: June 2, 2022

ELECTRONIC INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPOSED POLE ATTACHMENT TARIFFS OF
RURAL LOCAL EXCHANGE CARRIERS
CASE NO. 2022-00107

RURAL LOCAL EXCHANGES CARRIERS' RESPONSES TO THE COMMISSION
STAFF'S SECOND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

REQUEST NO. 1: Describe your recent efforts, if any, to reduce the number of above ground lines, and identify the number of poles that have been eliminated in your system in each of the last ten years because the lines previously attached to those poles were placed underground.

RESPONSE: As described in response to the Commission Staff's First Requests for Information, Ballard has decommissioned all of its utility poles and placed its facilities underground. Ballard has removed the majority of its utility poles from the ground and will continue with that process as time and resources allow.

The number of poles eliminated from Ballard's system as a result of moving its facilities underground is approximately 2,457.

Witness) **Randy Grogan**

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REQUEST NO. 2: Other than identifying specific defective poles through inspections that require replacement, state whether you have a policy or practice of replacing poles on a periodic basis or as they reach the end of their useful lives and, if so, describe that policy or practice in detail, including how and when (e.g. how far in advance) such replacements are identified or included in your projected capital spending budget.

RESPONSE: Ballard has decommissioned its poles and does not plan to replace any poles. Please see Ballard's Response to Commission Staff's First Requests for Information Nos. 2, 3, and 11.

Witness) Randy Grogan

ELECTRONIC INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPOSED POLE ATTACHMENT TARIFFS OF
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REQUEST NO. 3: Describe in detail the process you use to budget for future capital expenditures, including when you first develop a preliminary capital spending budget for a particular year (e.g. three years in advance, five years in advance, etc.), how you determine the amounts to include in the preliminary capital budget, the level of specificity included in any preliminary budget, and each step that is taken in the process to get from any preliminary budget to a final capital spending budget for a particular year.

RESPONSE: Each manager reviews his/her own departmental needs for capital expenditures for the upcoming one-year budget period. Each preliminary budget prepared by the department manager is reviewed by senior management for prioritization, and projected costs or project scope may be modified depending upon available resources. The final capital budget reflects identified changes in costs and any projects or future endeavors that are outside of typical maintenance and would not otherwise be budgeted. Once the budget is finalized, it is presented to the Board for final review and approval.

Ballard has decommissioned its poles and does not plan to install or replace poles in the future. Please see Ballard's Response to Commission Staff's First Requests for Information Nos. 2, 3, 6, and 7.

Witness) Randy Grogan

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REQUEST NO. 4: Provide any current joint use agreements.

RESPONSE: As a result of decommissioning its poles, Ballard does not have any
current joint use agreements.

Witness) **Randy Grogan**

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**Requests for Information Not Directed to Ballard: Commission Staff's Second
Request for Information Nos. 5 - 15 are not directed to Ballard, and no response is required.**

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VERIFICATION

I, Randy Grogan, verify, state, and affirm that the information request responses filed with this verification for which I am listed as a witness are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief formed after a reasonable inquiry.

Randy C Grogan

Name: Randy Grogan

Title: CEO/General Manager

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY)
) ss:
COUNTY OF BALLARD)

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me by Randy Grogan on this the 31 day of
May, 2022.

My commission expires: 07/29/22

Karen Telford
Notary Public

