

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: WK&T has removed 19,390 poles or its attachments to other entities' poles since 2015 when WK&T's fiber overbuild was completed. WK&T is not placing any new poles in Kentucky, and its network primarily consists of buried fiber cable.

Witness) Trevor Bonnstetter

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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: WK&T does not have a specific policy or practice of replacing poles as a result of the completion of its fiber overbuild in 2015, during which it buried its fiber. WK&T does not place new poles in Kentucky or replace existing poles in Kentucky as a result of moving its facilities underground. For any remaining poles that have not been removed due to the presence of an attacher, WK&T has historically transferred ownership to the attacher when maintenance or replacement is needed.

Witness) **Trevor Bonnstetter**

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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: WK&T prepares a five-year capital budget. However, as a result of WK&T's fiber overbuild, WK&T's capital budget does not include capital expenditures related to the replacement of poles. As a general matter, WK&T's budget is determined by reviewing the prior year's actual expenditures, which are adjusted based on known and measurable anticipated changes to forecast future capital expenditures.

Witness) Trevor Bonnstetter

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

RESPONSE: Please see the **CONFIDENTIAL** agreements provided herewith.

Witness) **Trevor Bonnstetter**

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Requests for Information Not Directed to WK&T: Commission Staff's Second

Request for Information Nos. 5-15 are not directed to WK&T, and no response is required.

