

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:

ELECTRONIC INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPOSED
POLE ATTACHMENT TARIFFS OF INCUMBENT
LOCAL EXCHANGE CARRIERS

CASE NO. 2022-108

**Windstream Kentucky West, LLC's ("Windstream")
Responses to the Commission Staff's
First Request for Information**

1. **Refer to Windstream West's current tariff on file with the Commission, P.S.C. KY No. 7, Original Page 1 through Original Page 20. Explain why no changes were proposed to these pages given that they currently only appear to apply to cable television service.**

Windstream Response: As reflected in the docket, due to an administrative oversight, Windstream was not aware of the required tariff filing until after the date to file had passed. In order to comply as promptly as possible Windstream updated its existing cable television pole attachment tariff to address the new requirements. Windstream has intended to revise the tariff as needed to make it reflect the revised rules, including making this change.

2. **Refer to Windstream West's proposed tariff, P.S.C. KY No. 7, Original Page 25, 7. Payment, Security Bond and Lien.**

- 2.a **Explain the reasoning and justification for charging interest at 1.5 percent per month instead of establishing a late payment charge.**

Windstream Response: Charging a 1.5% interest charge per month provides Windstream's collection department with a more efficient method for collecting late payments. Interest charges allow Windstream to collect a proportionate amount of past due balances for services provided versus a standard late payment charge.

- 2.b. **Explain whether the interest charges on any balance that remains unpaid would be simple or compound interest.**

Windstream Response: A simple interest rate is applied to all unpaid remaining balances.

- 2.c. **Explain why 807 KAR 5:006, Section 9(3)(h), which states that a late**

payment charge may be assessed only once on a bill for rendered services, would not apply to the interest charge.

Windstream Response: 807 KAR 5:006 § 9(3)(h) relating to interest charges applies to Customers. 807 KAR 5:006 § 1(4) defines a Customer as someone receiving service from a utility. Windstream does not believe it is providing a service and therefore the late payment rules in 807 KAR 5:006 § 9(3)(h) would not apply.

- 3. Refer to Windstream West’s proposed tariff, P.S.C. KY No. 7, Original Page 27, B. Application for Pole License and Engineering Survey. Explain why Windstream West’s proposed tariff does not include a per pole estimate of survey costs as Windstream West appears to require prepayment of survey costs.**

Windstream Response: Windstream is not able to provide an estimate in its tariffs because these rates vary based on a number of details, including the location of the surveys, third parties that may have to be engaged, etc. Windstream will provide the amount to the attacher prior to completing the work. If the attacher has questions or concerns with the invoice it has an opportunity to present those to Windstream before any expenses are incurred.

- 4. Refer to Windstream West’s proposed tariff, P.S.C. KY No. 7, Original Page 60, Exhibit D, Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges. Provide support for the following:**

- 4.a. \$400 One Time Agreement Fee;**

Windstream Response: The “\$400.00 One Time Agreement Fee” is based on the average time and material costs incurred to evaluate new attachers and negotiate any particular needs.

- 4.b. \$125 (per application) Application for Pole License Fee;**

Windstream Response: The “\$125.00 Application Fee” for each pole license fee is calculated based on the average time and material costs necessary for the joint-use team to process each application.

- 4.c. \$15 per pole Removal Verification Fee; and**

Windstream Response: The “\$15.00 Removal Verification Fee” per pole is based on the average time and cost of necessary materials in examining whether it is appropriate for a particular pole to require removal.

- 4.d. \$75 per hour Additional Field or Engineering Fee.**

Windstream Response: The “\$75.00 per hour Field or Engineering Fee” is calculated based on the average time and material costs incurred for engineering field review and work.

5. **Refer to Windstream West’s proposed tariff, P.S.C. KY No. 7 Original Page 64, Exhibit G, Simple Make-Ready Specifications. Explain why the actual specifications were not included in the proposed tariff.**

Windstream Response: Attached please find Exhibit A which contains a copy of the specifications which will be incorporated into Windstream’s planned tariff revisions.

- 6.a . **Identify each account and subaccount in which the costs of utility poles in service are recorded.**

Windstream Response:

- 6.b. **Provide a narrative description of the costs that are recorded in each such account, including a description of the type and vintage of poles for which costs are recorded in the account (e.g., wood poles placed in service in 2005) and a description other plant, if any, for which costs are recorded in the account.**

Windstream Response: Windstream will file a confidential supplement with this information.

- 6.c. **Provide an Excel spreadsheet with all formulas, rows, and columns unprotected and fully accessible showing the plant in service balance of each such account at the end of each of the last five fiscal years.**

Windstream Response: Windstream will file a confidential supplement with this information.

- 7.a. **Identify each account and subaccount in which accumulated depreciation for poles in service is recorded.**

Windstream Response: Windstream will file a confidential supplement with this information.

- 7.b. **Provide a narrative description of how the accumulated depreciation in each such account is calculated.**

Windstream Response: Windstream will file a confidential supplement with this information.

- 7.c. **Identify the corresponding plant account or accounts for each account in which accumulated depreciation for poles is recorded.**

Windstream Response: Windstream will file a confidential supplement with this information.

- 7.d. **Provide an Excel spreadsheet with all formulas, rows, and columns unprotected and fully accessible showing the balance of each such account at the end of each of the last five fiscal years.**

Windstream Response: Windstream will file a confidential supplement with this information.

- 8.a. **Identify the depreciation rates currently used to calculate depreciation expense for each account containing utility pole costs.**

Windstream Response: Windstream will file a confidential supplement with this information.

- 8.b. **Identify the useful lives of the poles used to calculate each such depreciation rate.**

Windstream Response: Windstream will file a confidential supplement with this information.

9. **Identify the total number of poles owned or controlled by Windstream West, and provide a breakdown of those poles based on the year they were placed in service.**

Windstream Response: Windstream's combined controlled poles in the Commonwealth of Kentucky is 186,932. Please see Exhibit B for the breakdown of the number of poles constructed.

10. **Describe in detail the current plan or policy regarding the inspection and replacement of aging or damaged poles owned or controlled by Windstream West and provide a copy of any such plan or policy that has been memorialized in writing.**

Windstream Response: Windstream trains its technicians to visually inspect poles as they conduct their daily duties and report any issues via the processes described further below. In addition to visual inspections, technicians are trained and required to complete testing before climbing any poles, like with visual inspections, if an issue is found they are reported.

If a non-safety issue is identified, such as a pole that is beginning to deteriorate is identified, the technician will complete an internal maintenance request form (MRF). This form is

then sent to Windstream's engineering department for review, prioritization, and action. If the pole is in a shape that it is causing a safety issue, for example a broken pole, there is an escalation process in which the technician directly contacts engineering to have the issue addressed immediately.

In addition to its ongoing inspections, Windstream accepts reports from its customers and community members. These reports are submitted to Windstream's engineering team as well for review, prioritization and action. Similar to when technicians report an issue, if the report received from the community is a public safety issue, the pole issue is escalated to be addressed immediately

Responding Witness: Amanda Brown

Dated: May 5, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Robert C. Moore

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COUNSEL FOR THE WINDSTREAM
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KENTUCKY WEST, LLC

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on May 5, 2022, I electronically filed the foregoing document using the Kentucky Public Service Commission's electronic system for filing, which sent notice of filing to counsel of record.

/s/ Robert C. Moore

Robert C. Moore

EXHIBIT A
CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS

EXHIBIT B
CONSTRUCTED POLE HISTORY

Year Constructed	Number of Poles
1915	2
1919	1
1920	1
1922	7
1924	4
1925	29
1926	29
1927	12
1928	61
1929	42
1930	115
1931	77
1932	98
1933	22
1934	50
1935	51
1936	134
1937	151
1938	167
1939	170
1940	203
1941	303
1942	166
1943	157
1944	135
1945	195
1946	406
1947	400
1948	420
1949	266
1950	257
1951	299
1952	332
1953	392
1954	425

Year Constructed	Number of Poles
1955	516
1956	473
1957	675
1958	802
1959	935
1960	763
1961	470
1962	906
1963	695
1964	1,453
1965	1,388
1966	1,264
1967	1,417
1968	1,158
1969	1,517
1970	1,662
1971	1,953
1972	1,613
1973	1,433
1974	1,747
1975	1,098
1976	1,701
1977	1,920
1978	2,370
1979	4,763
1980	2,768
1981	1,898
1982	3,607
1983	4,450
1984	6,231
1985	5,633
1986	7,088
1987	5,761
1988	5,989
1989	5,187

Year Constructed	Number of Poles
1990	4,577
1991	4,414
1992	3,697
1993	3,578
1994	3,606
1995	3,649
1996	2,912
1997	2,860
1998	2,624
1999	2,450
2000	6,865
2001	2,806
2002	1,854
2003	2,592
2004	2,886
2005	2,488
2006	2,585
2007	2,248

Year Constructed	Number of Poles
2008	2,309
2009	2,476
2010	1,805
2011	2,242
2012	3,020
2013	2,071
2014	1,887
2015	2,791
2016	3,080
2017	2,905
2018	2,583
2019	2,770
2020	2,141
2021	948
Uncertain	6,330
Grand Total	186,932