

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC INVESTIGATION OF POLE ) CASE NO.  
ATTACHMENTS ) 2023-00416

RESPONSE TO COMMISSION'S ORDER

Pursuant to Commission Order released December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, in the above referenced case, North Central Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (NCTC) is not aware of any topic that needs to be discussed at the scheduled January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, informal conference.

NCTC appreciates the effort the commission is making to balance the need for broadband deployment in the Commonwealth with the needs of the pole owners. A year ago, the commission conducted an intensive process to develop the current pole attachment regulations and North Central Telephone Cooperative, Inc. spent considerable time and resources developing and defending its tariff to comply with commission regulations, including exhaustive responses to interrogatories from both the commission and industry representatives. Such participation and the costs associated with doing so disproportionately disadvantage small companies like NCTC. Should the commission decide to undertake another proceeding in this matter, we ask that they consider relieving Kentucky entities with small numbers of poles from mandatory participation in order to avoid undue expense on members or customers.

NCTC owns approximately 1700 poles and provides pole attachments in compliance with state regulation. We ask that small companies like NCTC not be subjected to the high cost imposed on them by large national companies with

substantial resources who continue to press their disagreements with properly developed regulations.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Bobby H. Richardson

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