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November 30, 2011

Thomas, Long, Niesen & Kennard
Attention: Regina Matz
212 Locust Street, Suite 500
P.O. Box 9500
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17108-9500

Re: Leslie County Telephone Company, Lewisport Telephone Company and Salem Telephone Company ("TDS")
Request for Confidential Treatment received 7/15/11 (Re-Hearing)
PSC Reference – Admin. Case No. 2010-00398

Dear Ms. Matz:

Pursuant to your telephone conversation with Commission staff on November 29, 2011, the Commission has located your Petition for Confidential Treatment dated July 14, 2011 on behalf of Leslie County Telephone Company, Lewisport Telephone Company and Salem Telephone Company ("TDS") wherein you request confidential treatment for information filed on July 8, 2011. The Commission initially denied your request for confidential treatment since it was by letter and not Petition; therefore the Commission will treat your original Petition dated July 14, 2011 as a request for re-hearing of the denial dated November 22, 2011. The Commission is basing its decision upon the discovery of the electronically filed Petition requesting confidential protection which was not filed according to procedure, but was grouped along with several documents into one electronic filing (each electronic filing should be separate), and without the confidential materials accompanying it. Therefore, it was not brought to the immediate attention of staff. It appears that you had filed the confidential materials a week prior to filing the Petition, which is why the materials were treated as not having a Petition filed. The procedure at the PSC for confidential protection is for the utility to file a Motion or Petition requesting confidential protection, and attach the confidential materials to the original. The confidential materials should either be clearly marked as "confidential" and/or placed under seal. If you are requesting only a portion of a document to be

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confidential, then a redacted version should also be filed with the Commission. If the Petition is filed electronically, then a paper original with the confidential materials should be mailed to the PSC with a cover letter indicating that an electronic version has also been filed.

The information that you are requesting confidential treatment for is described as portions of the Prepared Direct Testimony of Bruce H. Mottern.

Your justification for having the Commission handle this material as confidential is that the public disclosure of the information would compromise TDS's competitive position in the industry, which would result in an unfair commercial advantage to its competitors.

Based on a review of the information and pursuant to KRS 61.878 and 807 KAR 5:001, Section 7, the Commission has determined that the information requested to be held confidential is of a proprietary nature, which if publicly disclosed would permit an unfair commercial advantage to TDS's competitors. Therefore, the information requested to be treated as confidential **meets the criteria for confidential protection** and will be maintained as a nonpublic part of the Commission's file in this case. The procedure for usage of confidential materials during formal proceedings may be found at Section 7(8) of 807 KAR 5:001.

If the information becomes publicly available or no longer warrants confidential treatment, Leslie County Telephone Company, Lewisport Telephone Company and Salem Telephone Company ("TDS") are required by Section 8(9)(a) of 807 KAR 5:001 to inform the Commission so that the information may be placed in the public record.

The Commission apologizes for any misunderstanding or inconvenience this may have caused.

Sincerely,

Jeff Derouen
Executive Director

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