

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of the Review of the)	
Relay Missouri Surcharge.)	<u>Case No. TO-2015-0032</u>
)	

**STAFF REPLY TO RESPONSE OF
MISSOURI TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION**

COMES NOW Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, by and through the undersigned counsel, and for its Reply states to the Commission as follows:

1. On August 4, 2014,¹ Staff filed a Motion for the Commission to issue an order to reduce the Deaf Relay Service and Equipment Distribution Fund (“Fund”) surcharge amount from \$.08 per month to \$.06 per month, maintain the existing retention amount for local exchange companies at one percent per month or \$30.00, whichever is greater, and for any Commission order directing these changes to become effective on October 1, 2014.

2. On August 6, the Commission issued an *Order and Notice* directing any interested party to file responses to Staff’s Motion no later than August 25, and for Staff to file a reply to any response no later than September 4. This filing complies with the Commission’s *Order and Notice*.

3. The only response received is from the Missouri Telecommunications Industry Association (“MTIA”) seeking clarification of the timing of the surcharge change. MTIA reminds the Commission of the need to provide at least 60 days advance notice of any change in the surcharge amount to provide sufficient time to make billing system changes.

¹ All dates herein refer to calendar year 2014 unless otherwise specified.

4. Staff agrees with MTIA's comment to ensure that affected companies receive at least 60 days advance notice. In addition, Staff recommends the Commission strive to make the surcharge change effective on the first of the month. Staff's Motion requested the Commission issue an order for the surcharge change to become effective no later than October 1, but that recommendation will no longer provide the notice the telecommunications industry requests and needs. Assuming the Commission is able to issue an order by October 1, the earliest date a surcharge change can become effective with the requested notice is December 1; however, if the Commission is unable to issue an order in this time frame then Staff recommends the Commission alter the effective date of the order accordingly.

5. A December effective date does not significantly change Staff's estimate of when the Fund will reach the target balance. Staff maintains all other recommendations contained in its original August 4 Motion.

WHEREFORE, Staff recommends the Commission issue an order by October 1, with an effective date of December 1, to reduce the Fund surcharge amount from \$.08 per month to \$.06 per month, and maintain the existing retention amount for local exchange companies at one percent per month or \$30.00, whichever is greater.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jennifer Hernandez

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that true and correct copies of the foregoing have been served by electronic mail on all parties of record according to the service list maintained by the Data Center of the Missouri Public Service Commission on this 4th day of September, 2014.

/s/ Jennifer Hernandez

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AFFIDAVIT OF DANA PARISH

STATE OF MISSOURI)
) ss
COUNTY OF COLE)

Dana Parish of lawful age, on oath states: that she participated in the preparation of the foregoing Staff Reply To Response Of Missouri Telecommunications Industry Association, to be presented in the above case; that the information in the Staff Reply was provided to her; that she has knowledge of the matters set forth in such Staff Recommendation; and that such matters are true to the best of her knowledge and belief.



Dana Parish

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4th day of September, 2014.





Notary Public