

**STATE OF MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service Commission held at its office in Jefferson City on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2022.

In the Matter of Proposed Modifications to            )  
the Missouri Universal Service Fund                    ) **File No. TO-2019-0346**

**ORDER REGARDING SUSPENSION OF ASSESSMENT  
RATE AND MONTHLY SUPPORT RATE**

Issue Date: July 21, 2022

Effective Date: August 20, 2022

On May 25, 2022, the Staff of the Commission (Staff) filed a notice asking the Commission to consider altering the Missouri Universal Service Fund (MoUSF) assessment. The collection of that assessment is currently suspended until September 30, 2022.<sup>1</sup> Based on its financial analysis of the fund, Staff recommended the Commission continue to suspend the assessment through December 31, 2022. Thereafter, Staff recommended the Commission reinstate the assessment beginning on January 1, 2023, at a rate of .0015 or .0020 depending on whether MoUSF Lifeline voice-only support is increased. Staff recommended that support be increased from \$18.75 to \$24.00, if the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) reduces federal Lifeline voice-only support by \$5.25 on December 1, 2022. Staff would maintain the existing \$24 support for the Disabled Program and the \$14.75 support for Lifeline service with voice and broadband services.

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<sup>1</sup> The current suspension of the assessment was ordered by the Commission in its *Order Continuing Suspension of Assessment Rate and Increasing Monthly Support Rate*, issued in this case on November 3, 2021

The Commission solicited comments, and received them from the Missouri Small Telephone Company Group (STCG) and the Missouri Independent Telephone Company Group (MITG). Their comments supported Staff's request. The Missouri Internet & Television Association (MCTA) also submitted comments. MCTA supported Staff's request to extend the suspension of the MoUSF assessment through December 31, 2022, and to maintain the existing level of support for the Disabled Program and for Lifeline service with voice and broadband. However, it opposed Staff recommendation to increase the support level for Lifeline voice-only service.

On July 18, 2022, Staff filed a notice explaining that the FCC issued an order on July 1, 2022, that maintains the existing level of support for Lifeline voice-only service through December 1, 2023. Staff reports that, after considering the FCC's order and the submitted comments, the Universal Service Board met on July 13, 2022, and approved Staff's recommendation to extend the suspension of the MoUSF assessment through December 31, 2022, and thereafter reinstate the MoUSF assessment on January 1, 2023 at the rate of .0015.

Section 392.248.1, RSMo 2016 creates the Universal Service Board and charges it with the duty to "ensure just, reasonable, and affordable rates for reasonably comparable essential local telecommunications services throughout the state." That statute also creates a state Universal Service Fund that is funded through an assessment on all telecommunications companies in the state. The Commission is required to establish the level of funding needed to accomplish the purposes of the Universal Service Fund.

The Commission finds that the recommendation of Staff, approved by the Universal Service Board, is reasonable. Those recommendations will be approved.

The Commission also notes that MoUSF assessment requirements are identified in Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-31.012, and remittance procedures are explained on the MoUSF administrator's website at [www.missouriusf.com](http://www.missouriusf.com).

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:**

1. The assessment for the MoUSF is further suspended until December 31, 2022.
2. Beginning on January 1, 2023, the assessment for the MoUSF is reinstated at a rate of .0015.
3. The Commission's Data Center shall send a copy of this order to all interexchange carriers, competitive local exchange carriers, incumbent local exchange carriers and IVoIP providers doing business in Missouri.
4. This order shall become effective on August 20, 2022.



**BY THE COMMISSION**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morris L. Woodruff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Morris L. Woodruff  
Secretary

Silvey, Chm., Rupp, Coleman, Holsman, and  
Kolkmeier CC., concur.

Woodruff, Chief Regulatory Law Judge

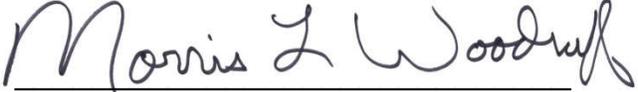
**STATE OF MISSOURI**

**OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.**

**WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City, Missouri, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2022.**



  
**Morris L. Woodruff**  
**Secretary**

**MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**July 21, 2022**

**File/Case No. TO-2019-0346**

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**Enclosed find a certified copy of an Order or Notice issued in the above-referenced matter(s).**

**Sincerely,**



**Morris L. Woodruff  
Secretary**

**Distributed to all Interexchange, Competitive Local Exchange, Incumbent Local Exchange and IVoIP providers doing Business in Missouri.**

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Recipients listed above with a valid e-mail address will receive electronic service. Recipients without a valid e-mail address will receive paper service.