

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

In the Matter of the Review of the  
Relay Missouri Surcharge

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**File No. TO-2015-**\_\_\_\_\_

**STAFF'S MOTION TO REDUCE RELAY MISSOURI FUND SURCHARGE**

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

1. Pursuant to Section 209.259 RSMo 2000, the Commission is required to review the Deaf Relay Service and Equipment Distribution Fund surcharge no less frequently than every two years, but no more frequently than annually, and to order changes in the amount of the Fund surcharge as necessary to assure funds are available for the provisions of the programs. Also, Section 209.257 RSMo 2000 directs the Commission to determine the appropriate percentage of the total Fund surcharge amount collected that the local exchange company shall retain to recover the billing, collecting, remitting and administration costs attributed to the Fund surcharge.

2. The Commission conducted its previous review of the Fund surcharge in File No. TO-2013-0416. On April 9, 2013, the Commission issued an Order to reduce the surcharge amount of \$.11 per month to \$.08 per month effective July 1, 2013. The Order also found sufficient the retention amount of one percent of the total Fund surcharge collected or \$30 per month, whichever is greater, and ordered it remain unchanged.

3. Staff has completed its review of the Fund surcharge and balance and provides its analysis and recommendation in the Memorandum attached. The Fund balance has continued to grow while the expenses to provide programs (disbursements associated with relay service, CapTel service, the equipment distribution program and other miscellaneous expenses) have decreased overall. Staff's analysis includes projections for the Fund balance based on a Fund surcharge of \$.08, \$.07, \$.06, \$.05 and \$.04.

4. Staff recommends the Commission issue an order to reduce the Fund surcharge amount from \$.08 per month to \$.06 per month. Based on Staff's projections, a reduction in the Fund surcharge to \$.06 per month will reduce the Fund balance to within a target range in approximately four years. Staff also recommends the Commission order that the existing retention amount for local exchange companies at one percent per month or \$30.00, whichever is greater, remain unchanged.

5. Further, Staff recommends any Commission order become effective on October 1, 2014, approximately sixty days from this filing, to allow local exchange companies time to implement any necessary changes to its internal procedures.

**WHEREFORE**, Staff respectfully submits its Motion and requests the Commission issue an order to reduce the 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 any Commission order become effective on October 1, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

**/s/ Jennifer Hernandez**

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I do hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document has been emailed this 4<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2014 to all counsel of record in File No. TO-2013-0416.

**/s/ Jennifer Hernandez**