

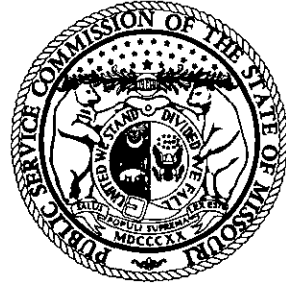
Notice of *Ex Parte* Contact

FILED
DEC 23 1998
Missouri Public
Service Commission

TO: Records Department: All Parties in Case No. TW-97-333
All Commissioners

FROM: Chairman Sheila Lumpe

DATE: December 25, 1998



On **December 18, 1998**, I received the attached document from **Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ferguson**. The Commission is currently considering the same issues as to those set out in this document in Case No. **TW-97-333**. The Commission is bound by the same *ex parte* rule as a court of law.

Pursuant to 4 CSR 240-4.020(4) it is improper for any person to attempt to sway the judgement of the Commission by undertaking, directly or indirectly, outside the hearing process, to bring pressure or influence to bear upon the Commission, or the Regulatory Law Judge assigned to the proceeding.

Whenever such contact might occur 4 CSR 240-4.020(a) states: as *ex parte* communications (either oral or written) may occur inadvertently, any member of the Commission or Regulatory Law Judge who received the communication shall immediately prepare a written report concerning the communication and submit it to the Chair and each member of the Commission. The report shall identify the person(s) who participated in the *ex parte* communication, the circumstances which resulted in the communication, the substance of the communication, and the relationship of the communication to a particular matter at issue before the Commission.

Therefore, out of an abundance of caution, I think it appropriate to submit this notice of *ex parte* contact pursuant to the standards set out in the rules cited above. This will ensure that any party to this case will have notice of the attached information and a full and fair opportunity to respond to the comments contained therein.

cc: Executive Director
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
General Counsel

149



Commissioners

SHEILA LUMPE
Chair

HAROLD CRUMPTON

CONNIE MURRAY

ROBERT G. SCHEMENAUER

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Missouri Public Service Commission

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WESS A. HENDERSON
Director, Utility Operations

GORDON L. PERSINGER
Director, Advisory & Public Affairs

ROBERT SCHALLENBERG
Director, Utility Services

DONNA M. KOLILIS
Director, Administration

DALE HARDY ROBERTS
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

DANA K. JOYCE
General Counsel

December 23, 1998

Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Ferguson
P.O. Box 108
Walnut Shade, MO 65771

Re: Community Optional Service

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Ferguson:

The Commission appreciates knowing your opinion.

This case is an open case, so I cannot comment on it. Your letter will be shared with all the Commissioners and be placed in the official file so all the parties can view it.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sheila Lumpe", is written above the printed name.

Sheila Lumpe

cc: Commissioners

12/04/1998

Shiela Lumpe
Public Utilities of Missouri
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Dear Ms. Lumpe:

A whole bunch of us people, mainly the senior citizens, have a real gripe about the decision you all made against the COS program here in our area. It's obvious it was done so the rich could get richer and everybody could get their hands into the pot.

We can only call a 5 mile radius from our house then everything else is long distance. This is ridiculous. We can't even call our Dr. in Forsyth without it being long distance. Forsyth is only about 8 miles from us.

We have no alternatives around here except GTE and we are not interested in all of these 10-10 numbers with their tricky moves. All our friends are in the Branson area, which is about 7 miles from us. The COS program allowed us to call our senior friends and they could call us with out it being a long distant call. We are all living on fixed incomes and we stay in touch by phone because we can't always get out in the car to go check on them or for them to check on us.

Why can't you all make an exception to your new laws and let us keep our COS program like it has been at \$16.00 per month with two-way calling? Now the only thing GTE can offer us is for \$23.00 per month...one-way calling. All this has accomplished is costing us more money with only half the service.

Please try to help us in keeping our two-way COS program for the senior citizens. It sure means a lot to us and we just can't afford to keep helping to make the rich richer. Let the businesses do that.

Thanks a million for listening to me. I'd appreciate hearing what you can do to help us out around here. I feel real sure exceptions can be made for the seniors who are on fixed incomes.

Sincerely,



Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Ferguson
P.O. Box 108
Walnut Shade, Missouri 65771

E-Mail: BVFergie@juno.com

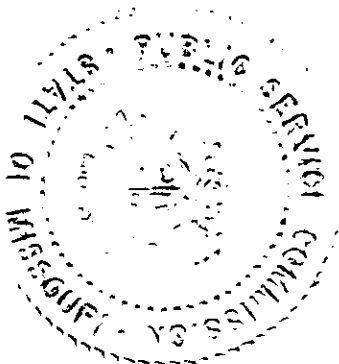
**STATE OF MISSOURI
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

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 23rd day of December, 1998.



Dale Hardy Roberts

**Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge**