

**STATE OF MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service Commission held at its office in Jefferson City on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2016.

In the Matter of an Investigation in which to )  
Gather Information about the Facility Extension )  
Practices of ETCs Eligible to Receive High Cost )  
USF Support )

**File No. TO-2016-0184**

**ORDER REQUESTING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE FACILITY  
EXTENSION POLICIES OF ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIERS ELIGIBLE  
TO RECEIVE HIGH-COST USF SUPPORT**

Issue Date: June 8, 2016

Effective Date: June 8, 2016

On January 27, 2016, the Commission opened this investigative case at the request of its Staff. Staff investigated the facility extension practices of Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (ETCs) that are eligible to receive High Cost USF Support and filed its initial report about that investigation on May 31.

Staff's initial report offers several suggestions on how facility extension practices might be improved and now seeks responses from the ETCs regarding those suggestions. To that end, Staff asks the Commission to invite the ETCs to respond to a list of questions about Staff's investigation and its suggestions. The Commission will do so.

The questions to which Staff seeks answers are:

1. Do you agree or disagree with any of the Staff recommendations contained in its

Initial Report? Please explain your answer. Staff's recommendations include:

- If an ETC applied construction charges then an ETC should be required to establish and maintain a written policy for extending facilities without charge and for how construction charges will be calculated and applied. The policy should be easily ascertainable by the consumer.

- Construction charge revenue should be treated as an advance payment whereby the amount paid in construction charges ultimately flows back to the customer as a monthly credit.
  - ETCs should be required to annually report to the FCC, USAC and state commissions service request quantities as described in Staff's report.
  - If an ETC does not apply construction charges, then the ETC should make a certification statement to that effect in the ETC's annual filing to the FCC, USAC, and state commissions.
2. Does the Missouri Commission have authority to impose these requirements on ETCs? Please explain your answer.
  3. Do you anticipate companies will be more likely to apply construction charges more often in the future? Please explain your answer.
  4. Will recent FCC reforms have a significant impact on facility expansion and the application of construction charges? Please explain your answer.
  5. Should Missouri consider providing some form of limited financial assistance similar to the Arkansas Extension of Facilities Fund to help respond to service requests where the company lacks facilities? Please explain your answer.

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:**

1. Interested Eligible Telecommunications Carriers that are eligible to receive High Cost USF Support may respond to the questions described in the body of this order by August 15, 2016. They shall provide their responses directly to Staff and those responses should not be filed in this file.
2. Staff shall file a report regarding its further investigation no later than September 19, 2016.

3. This order shall be effective when issued.



**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

Hall, Chm., Stoll, Kenney, Rupp, and  
Coleman, CC., concur.

Woodruff, Chief Regulatory Law Judge