

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of Chariton Valley)
Telephone Corporation for Authority and Approval)
to Issue a Note, Loan Agreement, Mortgage,)
Security Agreement, and Financing Statement, to)
Borrow Funds from the Rural Utility Services of the)
United States of America, and for Interim Financing)

Case No. IF-2007-0278

ORDER ESTABLISHING PROTECTIVE ORDER AND DIRECTING STAFF TO FILE A PLEADING STATING WHEN IT WILL FILE A RECOMMENDATION IN THIS CASE

Issue Date: January 24, 2007

Effective Date: January 24, 2007

On January 24, 2007, Chariton Valley Telephone Corporation (“Chariton Valley”) filed an application seeking authority to enter into and execute a note, loan agreement, and related security instruments with the Rural Utility Services Administration of the Department of Agriculture of the United States of America (“RUS”).¹ Chariton Valley is a small rural incumbent local exchange carrier providing service to approximately 8000 customers in 18 exchanges in north central Missouri.

Chariton Valley has secured a loan commitment from RUS providing an amount up to \$42,960,000 for the purpose of constructing new service facilities to improve service, replace existing plant, and to bring broadband capability closer to its customers’ premises. Chariton Valley has requested expedited consideration of its application because RUS has established a deadline of April 20, 2007, by which it must obtain Commission approval and

¹ Chariton Valley’s application is filed pursuant to Sections 393.290, 392.300, and 393.310, RSMo 2000 and 4 CSR 240-2.060 and 4 CSR 240-3.530.

execute the loan documents. Chariton Valley asserts that in order to meet this deadline it must have Commission approval no later than March 31, 2007. If approval is not granted by this date, Chariton Valley maintains that it will be unable to consummate the loan with RUS by April 20, 2007, and harm could result to its subscribers in that any delay could result in less advantageous loan terms and would delay service improvements.

In conjunction with its application, Chariton Valley filed a Motion for Protective Order because its application contains several highly confidential or proprietary documents. The Commission finds that there is a need to protect confidential information, and the request for a protective order to maintain confidentiality is reasonable. The Commission has previously recognized the need to protect confidential information, and protective orders have helped minimize disputes in past cases. Therefore, the Commission concludes that a protective order should be granted.

The Commission will need a recommendation from its Staff before acting on Chariton Valley's application. Therefore, the Commission will direct its Staff to promptly respond to Chariton Valley's motion for expedited treatment, and will permit any other interested party to respond to that motion at the same time. Staff shall indicate in its response when it will be able to file a recommendation in this matter.

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. The Motion for Protective Order filed by Chariton Valley Telephone Corporation is granted, and the protective order attached to this order as Attachment A is adopted.
2. No later than February 2, 2007, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission shall file a pleading responding to Chariton Valley Telephone Corporation's

Motion for Expedited Consideration and state in that response when it anticipates filing its recommendation in this case.

3. Any other party that wishes to respond to Chariton Valley Telephone Corporation's Motion for Expedited Consideration shall do so no later than February 2, 2007.

4. This order shall become effective on January 24, 2007.

BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colleen M. Dale', written over a horizontal line.

Colleen M. Dale
Secretary

(S E A L)

Harold Stearley, Regulatory Law Judge,
by delegation of authority pursuant to
Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 24th day of January, 2007.