

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Review of the Relay) File No. TO-2022-0178
Missouri Surcharge)

ORDER DIRECTING STAFF TO RESPOND

Issue Date: February 2, 2022

Effective Date: February 2, 2022

On January 3, 2022, the Staff of the Commission filed a report and motion asking the Commission to open a file regarding the existing Deaf Relay Service and Equipment Distribution Fund Surcharge. Section 209.259, RSMo 2016 requires the Commission to review the surcharge no less frequently than every two years. It also requires the Commission to order changes in the amount of the surcharge as necessary to assure available funds for the programs supported by that fund.

Staff has completed the required review, having examined the level of the surcharge, the fund balance, the retention amount, and the expenditures for Relay Missouri. Staff recommends the Commission increase the surcharge from \$0.04 to \$0.10 to increase the fund balance to a desired target. Staff further recommends the Commission maintain the current amount that companies retain for recovering costs associated with billing, collecting and remitting surcharge revenue at one percent of the total surcharge collected or \$30 per month, whichever is greater.

The Commission issued an Order and Notice on January 4, 2022, directing that any party wishing to respond to Staff's recommendation do so by January 31, 2022. The Missouri Cable Telecommunications Association (MCTA) filed comments on February 1, 2022, suggesting that the surcharge be phased in over several years. The

MCTA also offers other recommendations to improve the long-term sustainability of the program.

The Commission will direct Staff to respond to MCTA's suggestions.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. Staff shall respond to MCTA suggestions no later than February 16, 2022.
2. 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

Morris L. Woodruff, Chief Regulatory Law Judge, by delegation of authority pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2016.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri, on this 2nd day of February, 2022.

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 2nd day of February, 2022.





Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

February 2, 2022

File/Case No. TO-2022-0178

**Missouri Public Service
Commission**

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**Missouri Public Service
Commission**

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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**

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