

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

The Staff of the
Missouri Public Service Commission,

Complainant,

v.

Knobview Telephone Company,

Respondent.

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Case No. TC-2004-0357

NOTICE OF COMPLAINT

Knobview Telephone Co.
928 Piazza Road
St. James, MO 65559
CERTIFIED MAIL

On February 5, 2004, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission filed a complaint with the Commission against Knobview Telephone Company. A copy of the complaint is enclosed. Under Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.070, Knobview Telephone Company has 30 days from the date of this notice to file an answer or to file notification that the complaint has been satisfied. Knobview Telephone Company is reminded that, if it is a corporation, it cannot appear before the Commission unless it is represented by an attorney licensed to practice law in Missouri. Therefore, its answer must be signed by a Missouri attorney.

All pleadings must be mailed to:

Secretary of the Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0360

A copy must be served upon the Staff of the Commission at the address listed within the enclosed complaint.

BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale Hardy Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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

(S E A L)

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 9th day of February, 2004.

Woodruff, Senior Regulatory Law Judge

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

The Staff of the Missouri Public Service
Commission,)

Complainant,)

v.)

Knobview Telephone Co.,)

Respondent.)

Case No. TC-2004-_____

COMPLAINT

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Staff") and initiates its complaint pursuant to Section 386.390 and 4 CSR 240-2.070, against Knobview Telephone Co. (the "Company") for violation of the Commission's statutes and rules relating to annual report filings and annual assessment payments. In support of its complaint, Staff respectfully states as follows:

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

1. Respondent Knobview Telephone Co. is a "telecommunications company" and "public utility" as defined in Section 386.020 RSMo (2000) and is subject to the jurisdiction of the Missouri Public Service Commission pursuant to Section 386.250. Knobview Telephone Co. has provided the following contact information to the Commission:

Knobview Telephone Co.
928 Piazza Road
St. James, MO 65559

Knobview Telephone Co. lists the following owner according to the records of the Missouri Secretary of State's Office:

Knobview Telephone Company
c/o Henry L. Giese - Owner
R.R. # 1 Box 1055
St. James, MO 65559

2. Section 386.390.1 authorizes the Commission to entertain a complaint "setting forth any act or thing done or omitted to be done by a public utility in violation of any law, or of any rule, order or decision" of the Commission.

3. Commission practice Rule 4 CSR 240-2.070(1) provides that the Commission's Staff, through the General Counsel, may file a complaint.

4. The Missouri courts have imposed a duty upon the Public Service Commission to first determine matters within its jurisdiction before proceeding to those courts. As a result, "[t]he courts have ruled that the Division cannot act only on the information of its staff to authorize the filing of a penalty action in circuit court; it can authorize a penalty action only after a contested hearing." *State ex rel. Sure-Way Transp., Inc. v. Division of Transp., Dept. of Economic Development, State of Mo.*, 836 S.W.2d 23, 27 (Mo. App. W.D. 1992) (relying on *State v. Carroll*, 620 S.W.2d 22 (Mo. App. 1981)); see also *State ex rel. Cirese v. Ridge*, 138 S.W.2d 1012 (Mo. banc 1940). If the Commission determines after a contested hearing that the Company failed, omitted, or neglected to file its annual report and/or pay its annual assessments, the Commission may then authorize its General Counsel to bring a penalty action in the circuit court as provided in Section 386.600.

COUNT ONE

5. Section 392.210.1 states that telecommunications companies must "file an annual report with the Commission at a time and covering the yearly period fixed by the commission."

6. Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-3.540(1) requires all telecommunications companies to file their annual reports on or before April 15 of each year.

7. On February 3, 2003, the Executive Director of the Commission sent all regulated utilities, including Knobview Telephone Co., a letter notifying them of the requirement to file an annual report covering the calendar year 2002, together with the appropriate form for the Company to complete and return to the Commission and instructions on how the Company may complete its filing electronically. The letter was sent to the address that was current in the Commission's Electronic Filing and Information System ("EFIS") at that time, and the letter was not returned.

8. The Company never returned a completed form, nor did it file its annual report electronically, and as of the date of this pleading, has not filed its 2002 Annual Report. See Affidavit of Janis Fischer, attached to this Complaint as Exhibit A.

9. Section 392.210.1 provides that "[i]f any telecommunications company shall fail to make and file its annual report as and when required or within such extended time as the commission may allow, such company shall forfeit to the state the sum of one hundred dollars for each and every day it shall continue to be in default with respect to such report. . . ."

COUNT TWO

10. Section 386.370 authorizes the Commission to determine the amount of an annual assessment for expenses of the Commission to be collected from public utilities operating in this state. This statute provides that the public utility shall pay the amount assessed by July 15 or may at its election pay the assessment in four equal installments not later than July 15, October 15, January 15 and April 15.

11. Pursuant to Section 386.370, the Commission promulgated its *Assessment Order for Fiscal Year 2004* in Case No. AO-2003-0573, "In the Matter of the Assessment Against the

Public Utilities in the State of Missouri for the Expenses of the Commission for the Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2003."

12. As called for by the *Assessment Order* in Case No. AO-2003-0573, the Budget and Fiscal Services Department calculated the amount of the 2004 Fiscal Year annual assessment for the Company and the Commission's Director of Administration rendered the statement of its assessment on behalf of the Commission by letter on June 27, 2003.

13. Also in the *Assessment Order*, the Commission directed "[t]hat each public utility shall pay its assessment as set forth herein."

14. If the Company elected to pay on a quarterly basis, quarterly installments were due on July 15, 2003; October 15, 2003; and January 15, 2004. Thus, the Company is delinquent on at least the first three-quarters of its 2004 annual assessment.

15. On October 29, 2003, the Executive Director of the Commission sent a letter to an address that the Company had provided and that was contained in the EFIS system, informing the Company of its unpaid assessment for Fiscal Year 2004.

16. The Company, as of the date of this pleading, has not paid its Fiscal Year 2004 assessment and therefore has not complied with the Commission's *Assessment Order*. See Affidavit of Helen Davis, attached to this Complaint as Exhibit B.

COUNT THREE

17. Section 386.370 authorizes the Commission to determine the amount of an annual assessment for expenses of the Commission to be collected from public utilities operating in this state. This statute provides that the public utility shall pay the amount assessed by July 15 or may at its election pay the assessment in four equal installments not later than July 15, October 15, January 15 and April 15.

18. Pursuant to Section 386.370, the Commission promulgated its *Assessment Order for Fiscal Year 2003* in Case No. AO-2002-1156. "In the Matter of the Assessment Against the Public Utilities in the State of Missouri for the Expenses of the Commission for the Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2002."

19. As called for by the *Assessment Order* in Case No. AO-2002-1156, the Budget and Fiscal Services Department calculated the amount of the 2003 Fiscal Year annual assessment for the Company and the Commission's Director of Administration rendered the statement of its assessment on behalf of the Commission by letter on June 26, 2002.

20. Also in the *Assessment Order*, the Commission directed "[t]hat each public utility shall pay its assessment as set forth herein."

21. On January 29, 2003, the Executive Director of the Commission sent a letter to an address that the Company had provided and that was contained in the EFIS system, informing the Company of its unpaid assessment for Fiscal Year 2003.

22. The Company, as of the date of this pleading, has not paid its Fiscal Year 2003 assessment or its Fiscal Year 2004 (as pled in COUNT TWO) and therefore has not complied with the Commission's *Assessment Orders for Fiscal Years 2003 and 2004*. See Affidavit of Helen Davis, attached to this Complaint as Exhibit B.

23. Any public utility that fails, omits, or neglects to obey an order of the Commission "is subject to a penalty of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than two thousand dollars" for each offense, if there is no penalty otherwise provided. Section 386.570.1. The statute further states that "in the case of a continuing violation each day's continuance thereof shall be and be deemed to be a separate and distinct offense." Section 386.570.2. No

18. Pursuant to Section 386.370, the Commission promulgated its *Assessment Order for Fiscal Year 2003* in Case No. AO-2002-1156, "In the Matter of the Assessment Against the Public Utilities in the State of Missouri for the Expenses of the Commission for the Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2002."

19. As called for by the *Assessment Order* in Case No. AO-2002-1156, the Budget and Fiscal Services Department calculated the amount of the 2003 Fiscal Year annual assessment for the Company and the Commission's Director of Administration rendered the statement of its assessment on behalf of the Commission by letter on June 26, 2002.

20. Also in the *Assessment Order*, the Commission directed "[t]hat each public utility shall pay its assessment as set forth herein."

21. On January 29, 2003, the Executive Director of the Commission sent a letter to an address that the Company had provided and that was contained in the EFIS system, informing the Company of its unpaid assessment for Fiscal Year 2003.

22. The Company, as of the date of this pleading, has not paid its Fiscal Year 2003 assessment or its Fiscal Year 2004 (as pled in COUNT TWO) and therefore has not complied with the Commission's *Assessment Orders for Fiscal Years 2003 and 2004*. See Affidavit of Helen Davis, attached to this Complaint as Exhibit B.

23. Any public utility that fails, omits, or neglects to obey an order of the Commission "is subject to a penalty of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than two thousand dollars" for each offense, if there is no penalty otherwise provided. Section 386.570.1. The statute further states that "in the case of a continuing violation each day's continuance thereof shall be and be deemed to be a separate and distinct offense." Section 386.570.2. No

(for failing to file annual reports) and 386.570 and 386.590 (for failing to pay assessments); and order that the amounts of the overdue assessments may be publicly released.

Respectfully submitted,

DANA K. JOYCE
General Counsel

/s/ Robert S. Berlin

Robert S. Berlin
Assistant General Counsel
Missouri Bar No. 51709

Attorney for the Staff of the
Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 526-7779 (Telephone)
(573) 751-9285 (Fax)
bob.berlin@psc.mo.gov

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile or electronically mailed to all counsel of record this 5th day of February 2004.

/s/ Robert S. Berlin

Knobview Telephone Co.
982 Piazza Road
St. James, MO 65559

Knobview Telephone Company
c/o Henry L. Giese - Owner
R.R. #1 Box 1065
St. James, MO 65559

John Coffman, Esq.
Office of the Public Counsel
P. O. Box 7800
Jefferson City, MO 65102

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF MISSOURI)

COUNTY OF COLE)

I, Janis E. Fischer, Utility Regulatory Auditor IV, of the Commission's Auditing Department, first being duly sworn on my oath state that the Public Service Commission's records do not reflect the receipt of the 2002 Annual Report from Knobview Telephone, Co.

Janis E. Fischer
Janis E. Fischer

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of February, 2004.

Sharon A. Wiles
NOTARY PUBLIC

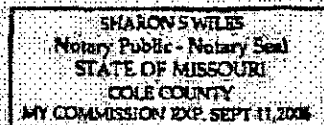
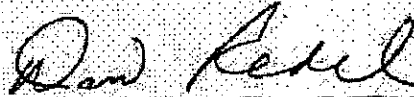


Exhibit A

AFFIDAVIT

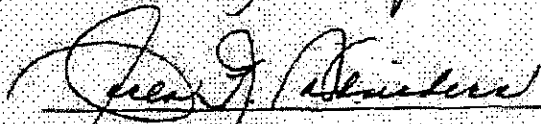
STATE OF MISSOURI)
)
COUNTY OF COLE)

I, Dan Redel, Fiscal and Administrative Manager in the Commission's Budget and Fiscal Services Department, first being duly sworn on my oath state that the Public Service Commission's records do not reflect the receipt of the Fiscal Year 2004 and Fiscal Year 2003 annual assessments from Knobview Telephone, Co.



Dan Redel

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of February, 2004.



NOTARY PUBLIC

CARLA K. SCHNIEDERS
NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF MISSOURI
COLE COUNTY
MY COMMISSION EXP. MAY 11, 2004

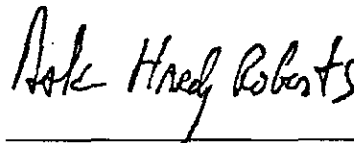
Exhibit B

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 9th day of Feb. 2004 .



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

February 09, 2004

Case No. TC-2004-0357

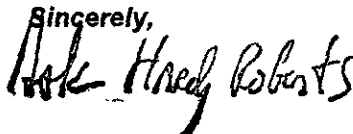
Dana K Joyce
P.O. Box 360
200 Madison Street, Suite 800
Jefferson City, MO 65102

John B Coffman
P.O. Box 7800
200 Madison Street, Suite 640
Jefferson City, MO 65102

✓ Knobview Telephone Co.
Legal Department
928 Piazza Road
St. James, MO 65559

Enclosed find a certified copy of a NOTICE in the above-numbered case(s).

Sincerely,

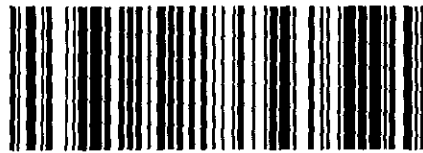
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Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

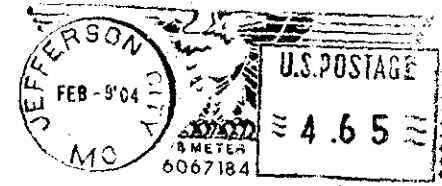
RECEIVED²
FEB 25 2004
Records
Public Service Commission

TC-04-357(2-9-04)	
SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired.■ Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.■ Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.	A. Signature X <input type="checkbox"/> Agent <input type="checkbox"/> Addressee
1. Article Addressed to: <div>Knobview Telephone Co. Legal Department 928 Piazza Road St. James, MO 65559</div>	B. Received by (Printed Name) C. Date of Delivery D. Is delivery address different from item 1? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If YES, enter delivery address below: <input type="checkbox"/> No
2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)	3. Service Type <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Express Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Registered <input type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt for Merchandise <input type="checkbox"/> Insured Mail <input type="checkbox"/> C.O.D.
	4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
7099 3220 0009 3099 7494	
PS Form 3811, August 2001	Domestic Return Receipt 102595-02-M-1540

C SERVICE COMMISSION
OX 360
RSON CITY MO 65102



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UNCLAIMED

2/11/04
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Knobview Telephone Co.
Legal Department
928 Piazza Road
St. James, MO 65559

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