

**STATE OF MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service Commission held at its office in Jefferson City on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2013.

In the Matter of a Repository Case in Which to )  
Gather Information About the Lifeline Program )  
And Evaluate the Purposes and Goals of the )  
Missouri Universal Service Fund )

**File No. TW-2014-0012**

**ORDER EXPANDING THIS WORKING CASE TO GATHER  
INFORMATION ABOUT THE POSSIBLE IMPLEMENTATION OF A  
MISSOURI UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND HIGH-COST SUPPORT  
PROGRAM**

Issue Date: December 18, 2013

Effective Date: December 18, 2013

The Commission opened this working case on July 17, 2013, to gather information and comments about Staff's report regarding its investigation into Missouri's Lifeline Program; a program intended to make telephone service more affordable for low-income Missouri consumers. In opening the working case, the Commission also indicated it wished to evaluate the broader purposes and goals of the Missouri Universal Service Fund.

As that working case has proceeded, several interested stakeholders have suggested the Commission should consider implementing a state high-cost fund to provide financial support for extension of infrastructure to provide voice service to customers in high-cost areas. Those concerns have also been raised in comments filed regarding the Commission's revision of various rules affecting the Missouri Universal Service Fund.

The Commission agrees that implementation of a state high-cost fund should be considered. Rather than create a separate case for that purpose, the Commission will explicitly expand this existing case to consider implementing a state high-cost fund.

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:**

1. This case, initially established as a repository for documents and comments regarding Staff's investigation of the Lifeline program and its evaluation of the purposes and goals of the Missouri Universal Service Fund, is expanded to consider implementing a state high-cost fund.

2. This order shall become effective upon issuance.

**BY THE COMMISSION**



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morris L. Woodruff".

Morris L. Woodruff  
Secretary

R. Kenney, Chm., Stoll, W. Kenney,  
and Hall, CC., concur.

Woodruff, Chief Regulatory Law Judge