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**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office
in Jefferson City on the 31st
day of December, 1997.

In the Matter of the Tariff Filing of Green Hills)
Telephone Corporation to Implement Lifeline) **Case No. TT-98-234**
Service and Modify Existing Linkup Service.)
)

ORDER APPROVING TARIFF

On December 5, 1997, Green Hills Telephone Corporation (Green Hills) filed proposed tariff sheets to implement the Lifeline program and to revise its existing Linkup Missouri program in accordance with the Federal Universal Service Fund Report and Order (FCC 97-157), CC Docket No. 96-45. Green Hills subsequently filed substitute sheets on December 15 and December 26.

To qualify as an "eligible telecommunications carrier" for purposes of receiving Federal Universal Service Funds (FedUSF), the Lifeline and Linkup programs must be implemented by January 1, 1998. Consequently, Green Hills filed a Motion for Approval of Tariffs on Less than Thirty (30) Days' Notice contemporaneous with its tariff filing, citing administrative error in filing as the reason for requesting expedited treatment. The company states that this tariff filing is virtually identical to the Lifeline/Linkup tariff filings of all other small telephone companies which have been recently approved by the Commission.

On December 22, the Staff of the Public Service Commission (Staff) filed a Memorandum recommending the Commission approve Green Hills' proposed tariff.

Staff indicates the "Lifeline" program is a reduction to the monthly recurring charges for single party residential service for qualifying low-income customers. Eligible Lifeline customers will receive a total reduction of their basic local rate for residential one-party service of \$5.25. Staff states the federal assistance of \$5.25 per month per Lifeline subscriber is based on \$3.50 credit of the subscriber line charge and a \$1.75 credit to the basic local service rate. The federal baseline Lifeline reduction will be used to waive the consumer's federal End-User Common Line charge. Staff indicates Lifeline will not be furnished on foreign exchange service and Lifeline service will not be disconnected for nonpayment of toll charges.

Staff indicates a customer may choose "toll blocking" in addition to the reductions in the customer's monthly bill under Lifeline. Toll blocking for the purposes of Lifeline service will restrict 1+, 0+ and 0- calls. Staff indicates that Lifeline customers who choose toll blocking will not be charged a service deposit. In the substitute sheets filed on December 26 at Staff's request, Green Hills clarified that Lifeline customers will not be billed for the toll access restriction (i.e., blocking) feature.

Staff states Linkup is a reduction in a customer's service connection charges and is not available on foreign exchange service. Linkup reductions are permitted only for a single residential telephone line per household at the customer's principal place of residence. Staff indicates that "residence" includes an individual house, a flat or

apartment, or a building occupied by a single family or individuals functioning as one domestic establishment. Staff states that customers may choose one or both of the following forms of aid for Linkup: (1) the federal Linkup reduction of 50 percent of the connection charges or \$30.00, whichever is less; or (2) spread payments of up to \$200 of the connection charges over a period not to exceed one year without incurring interest charges.

Staff notes that qualifications are similar for both the Lifeline and Linkup programs. The customer must be a participant in Medicaid, Food Stamps, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), federal public housing assistance or LIHEAP.

Staff states that at this time the proposed tariff reflects only the federal assistance of \$5.25. Staff notes that additional federal assistance could be provided if Missouri provides financial Lifeline assistance as contemplated through a Missouri Universal Service Fund (MoUSF).¹

Staff states that Green Hills submitted substitute pages on December 15 at Staff's request. Staff states it has no objections to the tariff filing as amended, or to Green Hills' motion for expedited treatment. Staff recommends that the Commission approve the following tariff filing to become effective January 1, 1998. Staff states it is

¹ Staff states that Case No. TX-98-56 proposes a framework for creating the MoUSF. The MoUSF rule, if approved as filed, provides additional assistance for Lifeline service. The proposed 4 CSR 240-31.050(6)(A) states, "Participation in the MoUSF for low-income and disabled customers will be set at the level necessary pursuant to Federal Universal Service Fund rules to gain the maximum Federal Universal Service funding for such customers." According to paragraphs 350-353 in the Federal Universal Service Fund Report and Order (FCC 97-157), CC Docket No. 96-45, the maximum federal USF Lifeline support is \$7.00 (\$5.25 + \$1.75). The additional federal Lifeline assistance is predicated on the state providing Lifeline assistance of \$3.50.

unaware of any other filings which would affect or would be affected by this filing.

The Commission finds that the need to meet the federal USF deadline is good cause for expedited treatment of this tariff filing. The Commission has reviewed Green Hills' tariff filing and Staff's recommendation and will approve the tariff as amended to become effective on January 1, 1998.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the following tariff sheets are approved as amended to become effective on January 1, 1998:

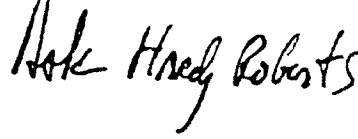
Green Hills Telephone Corporation P.S.C. MO. NO. 2 Consolidated

Section 1, Sixth Revised Sheet 3, Canceling Fifth Revised Sheet 3
Section 1, First Revised Sheet 5.2, Canceling Original Sheet 5.2
Section 1, Original Sheet 5.3
Section 1, Original Sheet 5.4
Section 1, Original Sheet 5.5
Section 2, Seventh Revised Sheet 31, Canceling Sixth Revised Sheet 31
Section 2, Fifth Revised Sheet 33, Canceling Fourth Revised Sheet 33
Section 2, Third Revised Sheet 34, Canceling Second Revised Sheet 34
Section 2, Seventh Revised Sheet 57, Canceling Sixth Revised Sheet 57
Section 2, Eighth Revised Sheet 58, Canceling Seventh Revised Sheet 58
Section 2, Fourth Revised Sheet 59, Canceling Third Revised Sheet 59
Section 4, Third Revised Sheet 95, Canceling Second Revised Sheet 95
Section 4, First Revised Sheet 95.1, Canceling Original Sheet 95.1
Section 4, Third Revised Sheet 96, Canceling Second Revised Sheet 96
Section 4, Second Revised Sheet 128, Canceling First Revised Sheet 128
Section 4, First Revised Sheet 130, Canceling Original Sheet 130

2. That this order shall become effective on January 1, 1998.

3. That this order shall be closed on January 12, 1998.

BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "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)

Lumpe, Ch., Crumpton, Murray,
and Drainer, CC., concur.

Hennessey, Regulatory Law Judge