

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office in
Jefferson City on the 4th day of
January, 2017.

In the Matter of the Deaf Relay
Service and Equipment Distribution
Program Fund

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File No. TO-2017-0168

ORDER REDUCING RELAY MISSOURI FUND SURCHARGE

Issue Date: January 4, 2017

Effective Date: February 4, 2017

On December 2, 2016, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission filed a memorandum advising the Commission to reduce the Deaf Relay Service and Equipment Distribution Program Fund (Relay Missouri Fund) surcharge from its current rate of \$0.06 per month to \$0.04 per month to reduce the total balance of the fund over the next several years. Attached to that memorandum was a summary of the Staff's detailed review of the Relay Missouri Fund, which Staff conducted pursuant to Section 209.259, RSMo 2000.

The Relay Missouri Fund provides support for two primary purposes. One is to fund Relay Missouri and CapTel services. The Commission administers those services, and Missouri Assistive Technology distributes the equipment. The second purpose is to fund an equipment distribution program for qualifying individuals who are unable to use traditional telecommunications equipment due to disability. Telecommunications companies are allowed to deduct and retain a percentage of the surcharge collected to recover billing and collection-related costs.

Staff reviewed the level of the surcharges, the fund balance, the retention amount, and the expenditures for Relay Missouri. Staff noted that the fund balance as of September 30, 2016, was \$4,860,260. Staff recommends the Commission reduce the Relay Missouri surcharge from \$0.06 to \$0.04. Further, Staff recommends the Commission maintain the current amount that companies retain for recovering costs associated with billing, collecting and remitting Relay Missouri surcharge revenue. Staff's calculations assume the reduced surcharge will take effect on April 1, 2017.

The Commission issued an Order and Notice on December 5 allowing potential intervenors until December 27 to request intervention. That notice specifically ordered that the Missouri Assistive Technology Council, the Missouri Council of the Blind, and the National Federation of the Blind – Missouri receive notice. No one has asked to intervene.

Section 209.259, RSMo 2000 requires the Commission to review the deaf relay service and equipment distribution fund 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.

The Commission finds that the Staff's review was properly conducted. Adopting Staff's recommendation will allow the fund to remain solvent and available for those customers who need it, while reducing the bills of all Missouri landline subscribers. The Commission further finds that the current retention amount is sufficient and should be maintained unchanged.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The Relay Missouri surcharge shall be reduced to \$0.04, effective April 1, 2017.

2. The amount retained by local exchange companies shall be unchanged.
3. The Commission's data center shall send a copy of this order to all competitive local exchange carriers, all incumbent local exchange carriers, and to all IVoIP providers in Missouri.
4. This order shall become effective on February 4, 2017.
5. This case shall be closed on February 4, 2017.

BY THE COMMISSION



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

Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

Hall, Chm., Stoll, Kenney, Rupp, and
Coleman, CC., concur.

Woodruff, Chief Regulatory Law Judge

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 4th day of January 2017.




Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

January 4, 2017

File/Case No. TO-2017-0168

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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

Distributed to all competitive local exchange carriers, all incumbent local exchange carriers, and to all IVoIP providers in Missouri.

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