

**STATE OF MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service  
Commission held at its office in  
Jefferson City on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of  
January, 2019.

In the Matter of the Review of the  
Relay Missouri Surcharge

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**File No. TO-2019-0174**

**ORDER REGARDING THE DEAF RELAY SERVICE AND EQUIPMENT  
DISTRIBUTION FUND SURCHARGE**

Issue Date: January 23, 2019

Effective Date: February 22, 2019

On December 11, 2018, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission filed a report and motion asking the Commission to open a file regarding the existing Deaf Relay Service and Equipment Distribution Fund Surcharge. The surcharge is used to fund a statewide dual-party telephone relay service for qualifying Missourians who are unable to use traditional telecommunications equipment due to disability. The surcharge is imposed on Missouri landline basic access lines and telecommunications companies are allowed to deduct and retain a percentage of the surcharge collected to recover billing and collection-related costs.

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 noted that the fund balance as of October 31, 2018, was \$3,281,386, which reflects an appropriate reduction in the balance resulting from the reduction of the surcharge amount from \$.06 to \$.04 in 2017. Staff recommends the Commission maintain the surcharge at \$0.04 to continue to gradually reduce the fund balance to a desired target range covering five to nine months of expenses. 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 December 12 allowing potential intervenors until January 4, 2019 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. The Commission's order and notice also directed that any party wishing to respond to Staff's recommendation do so by January 11. No response has been filed.

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. The Commission further finds that the current retention amount is sufficient and should be maintained unchanged.

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:**

1. The Deaf Relay Service and Equipment Distribution Fund Surcharge shall remain at \$0.04.

2. The amount that local exchange companies retain for recovering costs associated with billing, collecting and remitting surcharge revenue shall be unchanged at one percent of the total surcharge collected or \$30 per month, whichever is greater.

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 22, 2019.

5. This file shall be closed on February 23, 2019.

**BY THE COMMISSION**



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Morris L. Woodruff".

Morris L. Woodruff  
Secretary

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

Woodruff, Chief Regulatory Law Judge

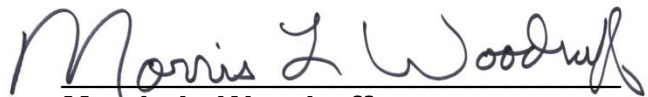
**STATE OF MISSOURI**

**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 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January 2019.**



  
**Morris L. Woodruff**  
**Secretary**

**MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**January 23, 2019**

**File/Case No. TO-2019-0174**

**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**

**Distributed to all Competitive Local Exchange Carriers, all Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers, and to all IVoIP Providers in Missouri**

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