# THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

Shari Feist Albrecht, Chair Jay Scott Emler Pat Apple

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In the Matter of the Complaint of the Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board Against Kansas Electric, Natural Gas, Water and Telecommunications Public Utilities Regarding Federal Income Tax Reform of 2018 and Its Effect on Jurisdictional Retail Utility Rates.

Docket No. 18-GIMX-273-COM

# **ORDER GRANTING JOINT MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**

This matter comes before the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas (Commission) for consideration and decision. Having reviewed the pleadings and record, the Commission makes the following findings:

1. On December 29, 2017, the Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board (CURB) filed a Complaint against all regulated electric, natural gas, water, and telecommunications public utilities operating in Kansas, alleging the Tax Cut and Jobs Act, which reduces the federal corporate income tax rate from 35% to 21%, effective for tax-year 2018, renders the utilities' retail rates unjust and unreasonable.<sup>1</sup>

2. On January 2, 2018, Commission Staff (Staff) filed Notice of Filing Legal Memorandum, advising the Commission that CURB's Complaint complies with the procedural requirements set forth in K.A.R. 82-1-220 and recommending the Complaint be served upon all regulated electric, natural gas, water, and telecommunications public utilities for an Answer.<sup>2</sup>

3. On March 6, 2018, the Commission issued an Order Adopting Legal Memorandum, finding the Complaint establishes a prima facie case for Commission action and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Complaint, Dec. 29, 2017, ¶ 7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Notice of Filing Legal Memorandum, Jan. 2, 2018, p. 1.

ordering it be served upon all regulated electric, natural gas, water and telecommunications public utilities operating in Kansas.

4. On March 14, 2018, CURB; the Independent Telecommunications Group; the State Independent Alliance; Southern Kansas Telephone Co., Inc.; Mutual Telephone Company; Rural Telephone Service Co., Inc.; Wheat State Telephone Company, Inc.; and Midcontinent Communications<sup>3</sup> filed a Joint Motion for Extension of Time for Response to allow time to determine which RLECs are subject to the Complaint.<sup>4</sup>

5. Pursuant to K.A.R. 82-1-220(c), once a party is served with a formal complaint, it must satisfy the matter complained of or file a written answer within 10 days.

6. The Commission has discretion to grant an extension for good cause.<sup>5</sup> The Movants claim an extension will avoid unnecessary administrative expense by allowing the parties to determine which RLECs are subject to the Complaint.

7. The Commission grants a 60-day extension for CURB to identify which RLECs are subject to its Complaint. Once CURB identifies the RLECs subject to the Complaint, the respective RLECs will have 10 days to satisfy the matter complained of or file a written answer.

#### THEREFORE, THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

A. The Joint Motion for Extension of Time for Response is granted. The Commission grants a 60-day extension for CURB to identify which RLECs are subject to its Complaint. Once CURB identifies the RLECs subject to the Complaint, the respective RLECs will have 10 days to satisfy the matter complained of or file a written answer.

B. The parties have 15 days from the date this Order was electronically served to petition for reconsideration.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The telecommunications companies will be referred to as the RLECs.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Joint Motion for Extension of Time for Response, Mar. 14, 2018, ¶ 5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> K.A.R. 82-1-217(b).

C. The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and parties for the purpose of entering such further orders as it deems necessary.

# BY THE COMMISSION IT IS SO ORDERED.

Albrecht, Chair; Emler, Commissioner; Apple, Commissioner

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_03/20/2018

Lynn M. Ref

Lynn M. Retz Secretary to the Commission

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> K.S.A. 66-118b; K.S.A. 77-529(a)(1).

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I, the undersigned, certify that the true copy of the attached Order has been served to the following parties by means of

Electronic Service on 03/20/2018

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