

THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

Before Commissioners: Pat Apple, Chairman
Shari Feist Albrecht
Jay Scott Emler

In the Matter of the Joint Application of)
Consolidated Communications Holdings, Inc.)
and FairPoint Communications, Inc., For)
Approval of the Proposed Acquisition of the)
Common Stock of FairPoint Communications,)
Inc. By Consolidated Communications) Docket No. 17-SFLT-283-ACQ
Holdings, Inc. and the Resulting Transfer of)
Control of Bluestem Telephone Company, Inc.,)
Sunflower Telephone Company, Inc., FairPoint)
Communications of Missouri, Inc. and ST Long)
Distance, Inc. to Consolidated Communications)
Holdings, Inc.)

ORDER ASSESSING COSTS

The above-captioned matter comes before the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas (Commission) for consideration and determination. Having examined its files and records and being fully advised in the premises, the Commission finds and concludes as follows:

1. K.S.A. 66-1502 authorizes the Commission to assess the expenses of an investigation, opened on its own motion, against public utilities if the expenses reasonably attributable to such investigation exceed the sum of \$100. The Commission will utilize members of its Staff in this investigation, and as deemed appropriate by the Commission, employ special assistants and consultants to investigate all matters connected with this proceeding. The Commission finds that the expenses reasonably attributable to this investigation will exceed \$100. The Commission concludes that the costs of this proceeding should be equally assessed to Consolidated Communications Holdings, Inc. (*parent company of Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc.*), and FairPoint Communications, Inc. (*parent company of Bluestem*

Telephone Company, Inc., Sunflower Telephone Company, Inc., FairPoint Communications of Missouri, Inc. and ST Long Distance, Inc.). This order constitutes notice of the assessment of costs and the assessment will begin three days after the date this order is mailed. Consolidated Communications Holdings, Inc. and FairPoint Communications, Inc. are given notice that they may request a hearing as to the necessity of the investigation or the assessment of costs, in accordance with the provisions of the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act.

IT IS, THEREFORE, BY THE COMMISSION ORDERED THAT:

A. Consolidated Communications Holding, Inc. (*parent company of Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc.*), and FairPoint Communications, Inc. (*parent company of Bluestem Telephone Company, Inc., Sunflower Telephone Company, Inc., FairPoint Communications of Missouri, Inc. and ST Long Distance, Inc.*) are equally assessed the costs of this investigation.

B. The parties have fifteen days, plus three days if service of this order is by mail, from the date this order was served in which to petition the Commission for reconsideration of any issue or issues decided herein. K.S.A. 66-118b; K.S.A. 2010 Supp. 77-529(a)(1).

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

BY THE COMMISSION IT IS SO ORDERED.

Apple Chairman; Albrecht, Commissioner; Emler, Commissioner

Dated: JAN 19 2017


Amy L. Green
Secretary to the Commission

Order Mailed Date

JAN 19 2017

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

17-SFLT-283-ACQ

I, the undersigned, certify that the true copy of the attached Order has been served to the following parties by means of first class mail/hand delivered on **JAN 19 2017**.

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/s/ DeeAnn Shupe
DeeAnn Shupe

Order Mailed Date

JAN 19 2017