

THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

In the Matter of the Application of)
Southwestern Bell Telephone Company) Docket No. 17-SWBT-158-MIS
d/b/a AT&T Kansas for an Order)
Confirming Relinquishment of its Eligible)
Telecommunications Carrier Designation in)
Specified Areas, and Notice Pursuant to)
K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 66-2006(d) of Intent to)
Cease Participation in the Kansas Lifeline)
Service Program.)

PETITION TO INTERVENE

COMES NOW, the Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board ("CURB") and petitions the Corporation Commission of the State of the Kansas ("Commission") for intervention in the above-captioned case pursuant to K.S.A. 66-1223 and K.S.A. 77-521(a). In support of its petition, CURB states and alleges as follows:

1. On October 27, 2016, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, d/b/a AT&T Kansas ("AT&T Kansas") filed an application with the Kansas Corporation Commission for an order confirming relinquishment of its Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation in specified areas, and notice pursuant to K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 66-2006(d) of intent to cease participation in the Kansas Lifeline Service Program.

2. CURB is composed of five volunteer board members.¹

3. CURB has specific statutory authority to "represent residential ratepayers before the state corporation commission"² and to "function as an *official intervenor in cases* filed with the state

¹ K.S.A. 66-1222(a).

² K.S.A. 66-1223(a).

corporation commission.”³ CURB’s authority and role as the official intervenor in cases filed with the Commission has been recognized by the Kansas Supreme Court.⁴ CURB also has specific statutory authority to seek judicial review of Commission orders and decisions on behalf of residential ratepayers.⁵

4. CURB’s express statutory authority referenced above reflects the intent of the Legislature that CURB should participate in cases filed with the Commission, which may affect the rates paid and the services received by residential ratepayers. This fulfills the requirement under K.S.A. 77-521(a)(2) because CURB “qualifies as an intervenor under any provision of law.”

5. The residential ratepayers whose interests CURB represents will be bound by any Commission order or activity in this proceeding. The rates paid and the services received by residential ratepayers may be substantially affected by any Commission order or activity in this proceeding, particularly if AT&T Kansas’ application is granted.

6. The representation of CURB’s interests in this proceeding by existing parties is inadequate. No other party to this proceeding is authorized to (a) specifically represent residential ratepayers before the Commission, (b) function as the statutory official intervenor in cases filed with the Commission, or (c) seek judicial review of Commission orders and decisions on behalf of residential ratepayers. While Commission Staff may have authority to investigate, evaluate, testify and offer exhibits on behalf of the *general public* pursuant to a definition contained in a Commission

³ K.S.A. 66-1223(b).

⁴ K.S.A. 66-1223(b). See, *Citizens’ Utility Ratepayer Board v. Kansas Corporation Comm’n*, 24 Kan. App.2d 63, 68, rev. den. 262 Kan. 959 (1997) (“*CURB v. KCC*”). See also, *Farmland Industries, Inc. v. Kansas Corp. Comm’n*, 29 Kan.App.2d 1031, 1047-48, 37 P.3d 640 (2001) (“The bulk of current customers otherwise entitled to receive refunds are statutorily represented by CURB. See K.S.A. 66-1223(a)”).

⁵ K.S.A. 66-1223.

regulation,⁶ Staff does not specifically represent residential ratepayers and is expressly denied the right to appeal Commission orders.⁷

7. Accordingly, CURB has a substantial and vital interest in the outcome of this proceeding which cannot be adequately represented by any other party. Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-521(a)(2), CURB qualifies as an intervenor (a) under provision of law and (b) because the rights, duties, privileges, immunities, or other legal interests of residential ratepayers may be substantially affected by this proceeding.⁸

8. CURB's requested intervention is in the interests of justice and will not impair the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceedings.⁹

9. CURB therefore requests that the Commission grant CURB's Petition to Intervene and participate fully in this docket, including but not limited to the right to conduct discovery, file pleadings and testimony, present oral argument, and fully participate in any scheduled hearings.

10. In addition to undersigned counsel, please include the following CURB representatives with all electronic notices, pleadings, and correspondence regarding this Application as follows:

Shonda Smith
Office Manager
Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
1500 SW Arrowhead Road
Topeka, KS 66604
Email: sd.smith@curb.kansas.gov

Della Smith
Administrative Specialist
Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
1500 SW Arrowhead Road
Topeka, KS 66604
Email: d.smith@curb.kansas.gov

⁶ Staff's authority to represent the general public is not specifically authorized by statute, but merely referenced in the definition section of Commission regulations. K.A.R. 82-1-204(q) ("Technical staff may conduct investigations and otherwise evaluate issues raised, and may testify and offer exhibits on behalf of the *general public*.") (emphasis added).

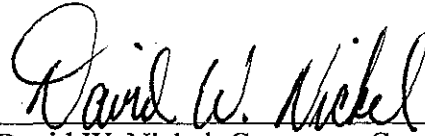
⁷ K.A.R. 82-1-204(i)(3).

⁸ K.S.A. 77-521(a)(2).

⁹ K.S.A. 77-521(a)(3).

WHEREFORE, CURB respectfully requests the Commission grant its Petition for Intervention in this Docket.

Respectfully submitted,

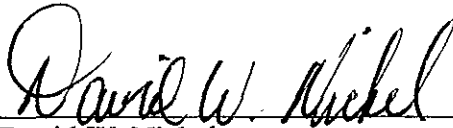


David W. Nickel, Consumer Counsel #11170
Thomas J. Connors, Attorney #27039
Todd E. Love, Attorney #13445
Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
1500 SW Arrowhead Road
Topeka, KS 66604
(785) 271-3200
(785) 271-3116 Fax
d.nickel@curb.kansas.gov
tj.connors@curb.kansas.gov

VERIFICATION

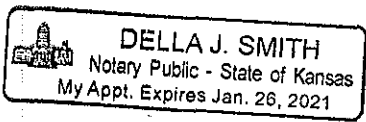
STATE OF KANSAS)
)
) ss:
COUNTY OF SHAWNEE)

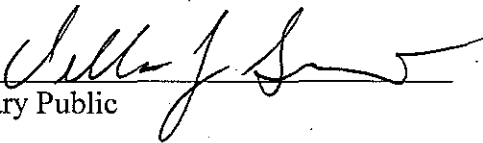
I, David W. Nickel, of lawful age and being first duly sworn upon my oath, state that I am an attorney for the Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board; that I have read and am familiar with the above and foregoing document and attest that the statements therein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.



David W. Nickel

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 13th day of March, 2017.





Notary Public

My Commission expires: 01-26-2021.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

17-SWBT-158-MIS


I, the undersigned, hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document was served by electronic service on this 13th day of March, 2017, to the following:

AHSAN LATIF, LITIGATION COUNSEL
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604-4027
a.latif@kcc.ks.gov

MICHAEL NEELEY, LITIGATION COUNSEL
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604-4027
m.neeley@kcc.ks.gov

JANET ARNOLD, AREA MANAGER EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE CO. D/B/A AT&T KANSAS
220 SE SIXTH ST.
ROOM 505
TOPEKA, KS 66603-3596
JS0746@ATT.COM

BRUCE A. NEY, ATTORNEY
SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE CO. D/B/A AT&T KANSAS
816 CONGRESS AVE
SUITE 1100
AUSTIN, TX 78701-2471
bn7429@att.com



Della Smith
Administrative Specialist