

**THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS**

Before Commissioners:                   Dwight D. Keen, Chair  
  Susan K. Duffy  
  Andrew J. French

In the Matter of the Application for Columbus    )  
Communications Services, LLC for Additional    ) Docket No. 22-COST-546-KSF  
Kansas Universal Service Fund Support        )  
Pursuant to K.S.A. 66-2008                        )

**SUSPENSION ORDER: JANUARY 30, 2023**

NOW, the above-captioned matter comes before the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas (Commission) for consideration and decision. Having reviewed its files and records and being duly advised in the premises, the Commission makes the following findings:

1.       On June 2, 2022, Columbus Communications Service, LLC (Columbus) filed an Application seeking an additional \$474,950 in annual Kansas Universal Service Fund (KUSF) support. Columbus does not currently receive any KUSF support to support universal service in rural areas.<sup>1</sup>

2.       K.S.A. 66-2008(f) states in part: “[w]ith respect to any request for additional supplemental funding from the KUSF and any audit of a rural telephone company’s KUSF support, the commission shall act expeditiously, and shall be subject to the 240-day deadline for rate case applications pursuant to K.S.A. 66-117, and amendments thereto.

3.       K.S.A. 66-117(c) states in part: “[t]he commission shall not delay the effective date of the proposed change in rate, joint rate, toll, charge or classification or schedule of charges, or in any rule or regulation or practice pertaining to the service or rates of any such public utility or common carrier, more than 240 days beyond the date the public utility or common carrier filed its

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<sup>1</sup><http://kcc.ks.gov/images/PDFs/telecommunications/kusfsupport.pdf>

application requesting the proposed change. If the commission does not suspend the proposed schedule within 30 days of the date the same is filed by the public utility or common carrier, such proposed schedule shall be deemed approved by the commission and shall take effect on the proposed effective date.”

4. A full investigation of Columbus’ request, which may result in a hearing, is deemed necessary and proper. Absent suspension of Columbus’ request, Commission Staff is without sufficient time to fully review, consider, and analyze whether the requested KUSF support increase should be approved.

5. The Commission finds and concludes that suspension of any potential effectiveness Columbus’ request is required to allow sufficient time for full investigation of this matter. The effective date of proposed request shall be suspended for a period not to exceed 240 days from the date the Application was made, June 2, 2022, until January 30, 2023. A Commission decision may be issued before such date.

**IT IS, THEREFORE, BY THE COMMISSION ORDERED THAT:**

A. Any decision regarding Columbus’ Application shall be deferred until January 30, 2023. The Commission may issue a decision before such date.

B. Any party may file and serve a petition for reconsideration pursuant to the requirements and time limits established by K.S.A. 77-529(a)(1).<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>K.S.A. 66-118b; K.S.A. 77-503(c); K.S.A. 77-531(b).

**BY THE COMMISSION IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Keen, Chair; Duffy, Commissioner; French, Commissioner

Dated: 06/09/2022



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Lynn M. Retz  
Executive Director

MRN

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

22-COST-546-KSF

I, the undersigned, certify that a true copy of the attached Order has been served to the following by means of electronic service on 06/09/2022.

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/S/ DeeAnn Shupe  
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DeeAnn Shupe