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1986 SEP 24 PM 2:25
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OR COMMENT ON PROPOSED RULE
COMMENT PERIOD

AGENCY: Public Service Commission of West Virginia
RULE TYPE: Legislative
RULE TITLE: Reduced Rates for Certain Low-Income
Residential Customers of Telephone Service

A COMMENT PERIOD ON THE ABOVE PROPOSED RULE HAS BEEN SCHEDULED
AND WILL END ON October 24, 1986 AT 12:00 noon. WRITTEN
COMMENTS ARE TO BE MAILED TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS: Howard M.
Cunningham, Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of
West Virginia, Post Office Box 812, Charleston, West Virginia,
25323.

THE ISSUES TO BE HEARD SHALL BE LIMITED TO THE PROPOSED RULE.


Michael D. Greer, Chairman

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OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE

IN THE MATTER OF Reduced Telephone Rates
for Certain Low-Income Residential
Customers of the Rules and Regulations for
the Government of Telephone Utilities.

FISCAL NOTE

This is a fiscal note issued pursuant to West Virginia Code §§29A-3-4, 5 and 9 and West Virginia Code §24-1-7, relating to the Commission's General Order No. 234, In the Matter of Rule 10.00, Reduced Rates for Certain Low-Income Residential Customers of Telephone Service of the Rules and Regulations for the Government of Telephone Utilities.

I. OBJECTIVES OF THE RULES

The purpose of these proposed rules is to create a program for providing reduced rates for certain low-income residential customers of telephone service as provided in West Virginia Code §24-2C-1.

II. COST OF IMPLEMENTING THE PROPOSED RULES

There will be no significant implementation cost relating to the rulemaking for the State of West Virginia or for the persons affected by the proposed rules.

III. THE EFFECT THIS MEASURE WILL HAVE ON THE COSTS OR REVENUES OF STATE GOVERNMENT (Information required by fiscal notes for either House of the Legislature.)

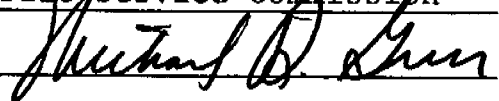
This rulemaking will have no effect on the cost and revenues of State Government.

IV. ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE RULE ON THE STATE OR ITS RESIDENTS

This rulemaking is designed to preserve the universal telephone service which has been substantially achieved in this State. While impossible to quantify, this rule should have a favorable economic impact on the State and its residents.

DATE September 24, 1986 AGENCY Public Service Commission

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE





KEN HECHLER
Secretary of State

MARY P. RATLIFF
Deputy Secretary of State

BARBARA STARCHER
Deputy Secretary of State

RICHARD S. STEPHENSON
Deputy Secretary of State

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WILLIAM H. HARRINGTON
Chief of Staff

RICH O. HARTMAN
Director, Administrative Law

DONALD R. WILKES
Director, Corporations

VIRGINIA SKEEN
Special Assistant

(Plus all the volunteer
help we can get)

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE
Charleston 25305

PROPOSED RULES
STATE REGISTER FILING

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AGENCY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA

CONTACT PERSON Howard M. Cunningham PHONE 340-0426

TYPE OF RULE Legislative

TITLE OF RULE Reduced Rates for Certain Low-Income Residential
Customers of Telephone Service

CHAPTER 24 ARTICLE 1 SERIES VI

AUTHORITY 24-1-7, 24-2C-4

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CHECK APPLICABLE ITEMS BELOW TO SHOW KIND OF ACTION BEING TAKEN

NEW RULE

NOTICE OF HEARING -COMMENT

AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING RULE

NOTICE OF AGENCY APPROVAL
(legislative rules only)

REPEAL OF EXISTING RULE

NOTICE OF AGENCY ADOPTION
(interpretive & procedural
rules only)

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WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE RULE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
CHAPTER 24-1
SERIES VI

SECRETARY OF STATE

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR
THE GOVERNMENT OF TELEPHONE UTILITIES

10.00 REDUCED TELEPHONE RATES FOR CERTAIN LOW-INCOME RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

10.01 TARIFF FILINGS

Every telephone utility, except cooperative telephone utilities, which provides local exchange dial access line service within the State of West Virginia subject to regulation by the Commission shall, within fifteen (15) days of the adoption of this rule, submit tariff sheets to the Commission for its approval containing a Tel-assistance Residential Service rate schedule. The Tel-assistance Residential Service rate schedule shall provide special reduced rates for certain low income residential customers and shall clearly state the availability of service, the eligibility conditions, the type of service to be offered, the restrictions on service, and the applicable rates and charges as set forth in the subsequent sections of this rule and in West Virginia Code, Chapter 24, Article 2C. Such tariffs, once approved, shall not be changed or modified without prior Commission approval.

10.02 PROVISION OF TEL-ASSISTANCE RESIDENTIAL SERVICE

1. Tel-assistance service shall be made available only to qualified low income customers who are:
 - A. either disabled or age sixty or older; and
 - B. social security supplemental security income (SSI) benefit recipients, aid to dependent children (AFDC) benefit recipients, aid to dependent children-unemployed (AFDC-U) benefit recipients, food stamp recipients or whose total household income is at or below the income level established for SSI eligibility.
2. Tel-assistance Residential Service shall consist of an individual, residential local exchange dial access line and an allowance for usage. "Usage" means the usage-

sensitive charges for all local, extended area service and toll calls provided by the telephone utility furnishing the tel-assistance service. This service shall be provided through an individual measured or message line at the lowest priced service option available. If measured or message line service cannot be provided, the highest grade of multi-party service available (which shall be deemed to be one-party service where no multi-party service is available) shall be provided at the tel-assistance rate until measured or message service is available. No other local voice telephone service may be provided to the dwelling place of a tel-assistance customer, nor may individual line foreign zone or foreign exchange service be provided.

10.03 RATES AND CHARGES

1. The monthly tel-assistance rate shall be set initially by the Commission at the lower of:
 - A. the lowest priced service available to the customer at the time of his/her application, or
 - B. seven dollars and fifty cents.

This rate shall allow the customer \$2.00 in usage. All usage in excess of \$2.00 shall be charged to the customer at the otherwise applicable tariff rate.

2. The Commission may, upon having set the rate initially for tel-assistance, change such rate from time to time upon a finding that it is reasonable to do so, and may, in connection therewith increase or decrease the usage allowance.
3. A telephone utility may not impose an order processing charge or line charge in changing a customer to or from tel-assistance service. However, charges for other services including those for installing service or for moving a customer's service from one dwelling to another shall be made at the otherwise applicable tariff rate.

10.04 UTILITY'S RESPONSIBILITY UPON APPLICATION

1. Telephone utilities required to offer tel-assistance service shall accept applications for such service

from:

- (a) any current customer, and
- (b) any person who subsequently becomes a customer.

"Customer" shall mean, for the purpose of this rule, the member of the household in whose name telephone service is provided. In determining whether an applicant is eligible to receive tel-assistance service, a utility is entitled to rely upon the information provided to it directly or indirectly by the West Virginia Department of Human Services pursuant to West Virginia Code §24-2C-4(c).

2. Each utility offering tel-assistance service shall maintain documentation regarding the resolution of individual applications. The information contained in said records shall include names, addresses or other information which adequately identifies the applicant, the application date, the source of eligibility, and the date on which tel-assistance service is approved or denied.
3. Any customer who ceases to receive service under a Tel-assistance Residential Service rate schedule must reapply in order to receive such service again.

10.05 CERTIFICATION OF REVENUE DEFICIENCY

1. On or before the first day of March of each year, each utility offering tel-assistance service may make application to the Commission for a determination and certification of the revenue deficiency which it has experienced during the previous calendar year. Subsequently, the Commission will enter an order certifying the amount of the revenue deficiency.
2. The utility's revenue deficiency shall be calculated as the difference between revenues received from customers participating in tel-assistance service and the revenues which would have been received at full tariff rates for the same service as being provided under tel-assistance.
3. Applications for determination and certification of a utility's revenue deficiency shall be made in the

PSC
Leg. Rule/Adm. Reg. 24-1
Series VI

format to be prescribed by the Commission. All information submitted in this application shall be verified by the utility to be true and accurate to the best of its knowledge and information.

10.06 NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS

The telephone utilities subject to this rule shall adopt policies for providing notice to their customers of the availability of and advantages of the tel-assistance program.