

Decision No. C03-0806

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

DOCKET NO. 03S-315T

RE: THE INVESTIGATION AND SUSPENSION OF TARIFF SHEETS FILED BY PHILLIPS COUNTY TELEPHONE COMPANY WITH ADVICE LETTER NO. 61.

**ORDER SUSPENDING EFFECTIVE DATE
OF TARIFFS AND NOTICE OF HEARING**

Mailed Date: July 28, 2003
Adopted Date: July 23, 2003

IMPORTANT NOTICE: ANY PERSON DESIRING TO PARTICIPATE ONLY BY MAKING A STATEMENT MAY DO SO BY APPEARING AT THE HEARING. IF YOU DESIRE TO ASK QUESTIONS OF A WITNESS OR OTHERWISE PARTICIPATE AS A PARTY IN THIS RATE MATTER, YOU MUST REQUEST PERMISSION FROM THE COMMISSION TO BE AN INTERVENOR (EVEN IF YOU HAVE ALREADY FILED AN OBJECTION). ANYONE DESIRING TO INTERVENE MUST CAREFULLY FOLLOW THE LAW AND COMMISSION RULES FOR BECOMING AN INTERVENOR. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON HOW TO INTERVENE CALL (303) 894-2070 (PUC EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICE).

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement

1. On June 30, 2003, Phillips County Telephone Company filed Advice Letter No. 61 (attached as Exhibit 1).

2. Phillips County Telephone Company stated that the purpose of this filing is to increase the company's composite intrastate access rate by approximately 34 percent. Concurrent with these tariff changes, the company requests support from the Colorado High Cost Fund under the Rules Prescribing the Procedures for Administering the Colorado High Cost Fund. Phillips

County Telephone Company requested that the tariffs accompanying Advice Letter No. 61 become effective on 30 days' statutory notice or, in this instance, on August 1, 2003.

3. Under § 40-6-111(1), C.R.S., the Commission may, in its discretion, set the tariffs for hearing which will suspend their effective date for 120 days. Section 40-6-111(1), C.R.S., also provides that the Commission may, in its discretion, by separate order, suspend the effective date of the tariffs for an additional 90 days. Thus, the Commission has the power and authority to suspend the effective date of the tariffs for a maximum of 210 days or, in this docket, until February 27, 2004. If the Commission does not establish new rates before the expiration of the first suspension period of 120 days, or December 1, 2003, the tariffs filed by Phillips County Telephone Company will become effective by operation of law. If the Commission further suspends, by separate order, the effective date of the tariffs for an additional 90 days, and if no new rates are established by the Commission on or before February 27, 2004, the tariffs filed by Phillips County Telephone Company will become effective by operation of law.

B. Findings of Fact

4. The Commission will set the proposed tariffs for hearing and will suspend their effective date because the rates contained in the tariffs may be improper.

5. A pleading to intervene may be filed by any person, firm, or corporation desiring to be a party and fully participate in this proceeding, as ordered below. The filing of any other document protesting the tariffs shall not allow participation as an intervener in this matter.

II. ORDER

A. The Commission Orders That:

1. The effective date of the tariffs filed by Phillips County Telephone Company, on June 30, 2003, with Advice Letter No. 61, is suspended for 120 days until December 1, 2003, or until further order of the Commission.

2. The tariffs filed by Phillips County Telephone Company, with Advice Letter No. 61, will be set for hearing before an Administrative Law Judge as follows:

DATE: November 21, 2003
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Commission Hearing Room
1580 Logan Street, Office Level 2,
Denver, Colorado

3. Any person, firm, or corporation, including any who have previously filed a document protesting the proposed tariffs, who desire to intervene and participate as a party in this proceeding shall file a motion to intervene with the Commission within 30 days after the mailing date of this Decision, and shall serve a copy of the motion on Phillips County Telephone Company's attorney of record.

4. Phillips County Telephone Company shall file with the Director of the Commission an original and three copies of all exhibits and direct testimonies, and shall effect service in accordance with Rule 7 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* 723-1, on or before 60 days prior to the first day of hearing. Except upon timely motion and for good cause shown, or by stipulation of all parties and the Staff of the Commission, no other, different or additional exhibits, witnesses, or scope of witnesses'

testimonies will be permitted to be offered by Phillips County Telephone Company in support of its direct case.

5. Interveners (including Staff of the Commission) shall file with the Director of the Commission an original and three copies of all exhibits and testimonies, and shall effect service in accordance with Rule 7 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* 723-1, on or before 20 days prior to the first day of hearing. Except upon timely motion and for good cause shown, or by stipulation of all parties, no other, different or additional exhibits, witnesses, or scope of witnesses' testimonies will be permitted to be offered by Interveners (including Staff) in support of its direct case.

6. All pre-hearing motions, of whatever nature, shall be filed on or before 20 days prior to the first day of hearing, and, except for good cause shown, no pre-hearing motion filed later will be considered.

7. This Order is effective on its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
July 23, 2003.**

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

GREGORY E. SOPKIN

POLLY PAGE

JIM DYER

Commissioners