

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office in
Jefferson City on the 6th day of
March, 2013.

In the Matter of the Amount Assessed
on Companies to Fund the Missouri
Universal Service Fund

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File No. TO-2013-0397

ORDER DECREASING ASSESSMENT RATE

Issue Date: March 6, 2013

Effective Date: April 5, 2013

On February 15, 2013, the Staff of the Commission, acting at the request of the Missouri Universal Service Board, filed a motion asking the Commission to approve a decrease of the Missouri Universal Service Fund assessment rate from .0025 to .0017, to be effective on July 1, 2013, as recommended by the Board at its February 13 meeting. The Commission directed that notice of Staff's motion be sent to all interexchange carriers, competitive local exchange carriers, incumbent local exchange carriers, and IVoIP providers doing business in Missouri. The Commission also ordered that any person, entity wishing to intervene, or otherwise respond to Staff's motion do so no later than March 1, 2013. No such application to intervene or other response was filed.

Section 392.248.1, RSMo 2000 creates the Missouri Universal Service Board and charges it with the duty to "ensure just, reasonable, and affordable rates for reasonably comparable essential local telecommunications services throughout the state." That statute also creates a state Universal Service Fund that is funded through an assessment on all telecommunications companies in the state. The Commission is required to establish the

level of funding needed to accomplish the purposes of the Universal Service Fund.¹

Staff's motion explains that the Missouri Universal Service Board has determined that the Universal Service Fund's needs can be met with a reduced assessment rate of .0017 to replace the existing rate of .0025. The Board recommends that the reduced assessment rate become effective on July 1, 2013, to allow the affected telecommunications companies time to adjust the bills they send to their customers.

The Commission finds that the Universal Service Board's recommendation is reasonable. Furthermore, no person or entity has expressed any opposition to that recommendation. The Commission will reduce the assessment rate as recommended by the Universal Service Board.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The assessment rate for the Missouri Universal Service Fund is reduced from .0025 to .0017, effective July 1, 2013.
2. The Commission's Data Center shall send a copy of this order to all interexchange carriers, competitive local exchange carriers, incumbent local exchange carriers and IVoIP providers doing business in Missouri.
3. This order shall become effective on April 5, 2013.

BY THE COMMISSION



**Shelley Brueggemann
Acting Secretary**

R. Kenney, Chm., Jarrett, Stoll, and
W. Kenney, CC., concur.

Woodruff, Chief Regulatory Law Judge

¹ Section 392.248.3, RSMo 2000.