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DOCKET# 32235
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Docket No. 32235

In Re: Generic Proceeding to Implement House Bill 168

ORDER APPROVING DISBURSEMENTS FOR 27th UAF YEAR

Background

On December 8, 2021, 20 Tier II Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers ("ILECs") filed applications with the Georgia Public Service Commission for Universal Access Fund ("UAF") support. The cumulative requested funding for all applicants was $33,517,967, which was reduced to $33,360,775 by the application of the $1,000,000 cap on applicants electing Track 1.

On May 9, 2022, the Staff filed its Agreed Upon Procedures Applied to Universal Access Fund Application Reports for all UAF applicants. The Staff's cumulative recommended disbursement amount for all applicants was $33,162,457. Consistent with the Commission's December 18, 2018 Order on Generic Issues and Supplemental Scheduling Order in this docket, which adopted the parties' Settlement Agreement on Cost of Capital and Cap on Individual Applicant Distributions, the rate of return on rate base was limited to the lesser of 8.0% or the level computed based on a 9.25% return on equity, using the ILECs' actual cost of debt and the ILECs' actual debt/equity structure.

Staff Recommendation

The Commission Staff recommended adoption of the proposed disbursements found in the Agreed Upon Procedures Reports for each of the UAF applicants. A summary of the recommended disbursements is shown in the table below:

Company	As-Filed Request	Track 1/2	Capped Amount	Staff Recommendation
Alma Telephone Company	$ 1,501,365	2	$ 1,501,365	$ 1,501,365
Blue Ridge Telephone Company	$ 2,580,611	2	$ 2,580,611	$ 2,580,611
Brantley Telephone Company, Inc.	$ 252,903	1	$ 252,903	$ 169,870
Bulloch Telephone Cooperative	$ 1,642,912	2	$ 1,642,912	$ 1,618,830
Camden Telephone & Telegraph Co., Inc.	$ 1,876,082	2	$ 1,876,082	$ 1,876,082
Chickamauga Telephone Corporation	$ 1,071,957	2	$ 1,071,957	$ 1,046,807
ComSouth Telecommunications, Inc.	$ 1,157,192	1	$ 1,000,000	$ 1,000,000
Darien Telephone Co., Inc.	$ 1,964,812	2	$ 1,964,812	$ 1,964,812
Glenwood Telephone Company	$ 509,025	1	$ 509,025	$ 506,222
Hart Telephone Company	$ 1,427,196	2	$ 1,427,196	$ 1,424,580
Nelson-Ball Ground Telephone Company	$ 1,356,469	2	$ 1,356,469	$ 1,356,469
Pembroke Telephone Company, Inc.	$ 743,358	1	$ 743,358	$ 743,358
Pineland Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	$ 1,405,521	2	$ 1,405,521	$ 1,400,635
Plant Telephone Company	$ 1,773,979	2	$ 1,773,979	$ 1,767,595

Planters Rural Telephone Cooperative	$	1,617,638	2	$	1,617,638	$	1,607,487
Progressive Rural Telephone Co-op., Inc.	$	2,596,292	2	$	2,596,292	$	2,558,536
Public Service Telephone Company	$	3,249,547	2	$	3,249,547	$	3,249,547
Ringgold Telephone Company	$	2,478,045	2	$	2,478,045	$	2,478,045
Trenton Telephone Company	$	3,968,006	2	$	3,968,006	$	3,966,549
Waverly Hall Telephone, LLC	$	345,057	1	$	345,057	$	345,057
	$	**33,517,967**		**$**	**33,360,775**	**$**	**33,162,457**

Commission Decision

After considering the Staff's recommendation and all other information provided, the Commission hereby approves the Staff's recommended disbursements for the 20 applicants for the 27th UAF year.

* * * * *

WHEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED for the Commission approves a cumulative annual disbursement amount of $33,162,457 for the 27th UAF Year, and that sum shall be disbursed to the Applicants in four quarterly installments;

ORDERED FURTHER that any application for rehearing, reconsideration or oral argument and any appeal with respect to this Order shall not serve as a supersedeas and shall not stay this Order unless expressly ordered by this Commission;

ORDERED FURTHER that jurisdiction over this matter is expressly retained for the purpose of entering such further Order(s) as the Commission may deem just and proper;

ORDERED FURTHER that all findings, conclusions and decisions contained within this Order are adopted as findings of fact and conclusions of law are decisions of regulatory policy of this Commission.

The above action by the Commission during its Administrative Session on October 4, 2022.

Sallie Tanner
Executive Secretary

10-21-22
DATE

Tricia Pridemore
Chairman

10/21/22
DATE