

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMISSION'S
REVIEW OF OHIO ADM.CODE 4901:1-6 OF
REGARDING TELEPHONE COMPANY
PROCEDURES AND STANDARDS.

CASE NO. 14-1554-TP-ORD

ENTRY ON REHEARING

Entered in the Journal on March 9, 2022

I. SUMMARY

{¶ 1} The Commission grants the applications for rehearing filed by the Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association and the Ohio Telecom Association for the purpose of further consideration of the matters specified in the applications for rehearing.

II. DISCUSSION

{¶ 2} On September 5, 2014, the Commission opened Case No. 14-1554-TP-ORD, *In re the Commission's Review of Chapter 4901:1-6 of the Ohio Administrative Code, Regarding Telephone Company Procedures and Standards*, for the purpose of commencing the five-year review of the rules contained in Ohio Adm.Code Chapter 4901:1-6.

{¶ 3} On November 30, 2016, the Commission issued a Finding and Order in this matter. Five rounds of rehearing ensued with the most recent Entry on Rehearing being issued on October 4, 2017.

{¶ 4} Pursuant to its Entry of May 2, 2018, the Commission requested comments on additional revisions to Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-6-36(B) and (C) regarding telecommunications relay service.

{¶ 5} Pursuant to the Supplemental Finding and Order of July 11, 2018, the Commission approved amendments to Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-6-36.

{¶ 6} Pursuant to the Entry of July 2, 2019, the Commission, among other things, requested comments on proposed revisions to Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-6-02, 4901:1-6-07, and 4901:1-6-21 (Rule 21).

{¶ 7} Pursuant to the Second Supplemental Finding and Order of October 21, 2020, the Purpose and Scope rule, Ohio Adm. Code 4901:1-6-02 Paragraph (H), was updated to reflect October 1, 2020, as the date whereby citations to the United States Code and the Code of Federal Regulations is incorporated by reference.

{¶ 8} Pursuant to the Entry of August 25, 2021, the Commission sought comments on a new proposed Rule 21 regarding the withdrawal or abandonment of basic local exchange service or voice service by a provider of telecommunications service. Initial and reply comments were due on September 1 and September 10, 2021, respectively. Initial comments were filed by AT&T Ohio; the Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association (OCTA); the Ohio Telecom Association (OTA); Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc., Legal Aid Society of Columbus, Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel, Ohio Poverty Law Center, Pro Seniors, Inc., and Southeastern Ohio Legal Services (collectively, Consumer Groups). Reply comments were filed by these same entities.

{¶ 9} On January 12, 2022, the Commission issued its Third Supplemental Finding and Order adopting Rule 21.

{¶ 10} R.C. 4903.10 states that any party who has entered an appearance in a Commission proceeding may apply for rehearing with respect to any matters determined in that proceeding, by filing an application within 30 days after the entry of the order upon the journal of the Commission.

{¶ 11} Applications for rehearing were filed by both OCTA and OTA on February 11, 2022, alleging, based on numerous grounds, that it was unjust and unreasonable for the Commission to adopt Rule 21.

{¶ 12} Memorandum contra the applications for rehearing were jointly filed by Consumer Groups on February 22, 2022.

{¶ 13} The Commission finds that the applications for rehearing filed by OCTA and OTA should be granted for further consideration of the matters specified in the applications for rehearing.

III. ORDER

{¶ 14} It is, therefore,

{¶ 15} ORDERED, That the applications for rehearing be granted for further consideration of the matters specified in the respective applications for rehearing. It is, further,

{¶ 16} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry on Rehearing be served upon each party of record.

COMMISSIONERS:

Approving:

Jenifer French, Chair

M. Beth Trombold

Lawrence K. Friedeman

Daniel R. Conway

Dennis P. Deters

JSA/mef

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in

Case No(s). 14-1554-TP-ORD

Summary: Entry granting the applications for rehearing filed by the Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association and the Ohio Telecom Association for the purpose of further consideration of the matters specified in the applications for rehearing electronically filed by Heather A. Chilcote on behalf of Public Utilities Commission of Ohio