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August 1, 2003

PUCO

Via Hand Delivery

Ms. Reneé J. Jenkins  
Director of Administration  
Secretary of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

03-1690-TP-AIR

RE: In the Matter of the Application of The Ridgeville Telephone Company for an Increase in Basic Local Exchange Service Rates and Charges Under the Alternative Regulatory Requirements for Small Local Exchange Telephone Companies with Fewer Than 15,000 Access Lines

Dear Ms. Jenkins:

Enclosed are an original and twenty (20) copies of the Application of The Ridgeville Telephone Company to be filed in connection with the above-referenced matter.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Very truly yours,



Carolyn S. Flahive

Enclosure

cc: Allen Francis  
David Hodgden  
Lou Pompei  
Michael Twiss  
Thomas E. Lodge, Esq.

**This is to certify that the images appearing are an accurate and complete reproduction of a case file document delivered in the regular course of business.**  
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Carolyn.Flahive@ThompsonHine.com Fax 614.469.3361 Phone 614.469.3294

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THOMPSON HINE LLP  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

10 West Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3435

www.ThompsonHine.com  
Phone 614.469.3200  
Fax 614.469.3361

**BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Application of The )  
Ridgeville Telephone Company for an )  
Increase in Basic Local Exchange Service )  
Rates and Charges Under the Alternative )  
Regulatory Requirements For Small Local )  
Exchange Telephone Companies With Fewer )  
Than 15,000 Access Lines )

Case No. 03-1690-TP-AIR

ABBREVIATED APPLICATION FOR  
SMALL LOCAL EXCHANGE TELEPHONE COMPANY  
INCREASE IN BASIC TELEPHONE SERVICE RATES AND CHARGES

The Ridgeville Telephone Company, the Applicant in this proceeding, is a local exchange telephone company providing service in Ridgeville Corners, Ohio. As of March 31, 2003, Applicant served 818 access lines (566 residential; 234 business; 18 miscellaneous).

Based on current income levels and anticipated reductions in the Applicant's sources of revenue, Applicant's existing rates will no longer provide a reasonable level of compensation for utility service. Applicant proposes new rates attached as Exhibit 1 to this Application. Exhibit 1 also provides the rates currently in effect.

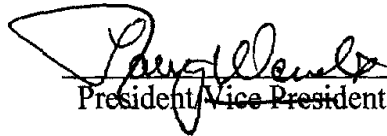
Additionally, the Applicant proposes to offer flat-rate Extended Area Service to the Napoleon, Archbold and Wauseon exchanges, which were converted to one-way, flat rate EAS to the Ridgeville Corners Exchange by United Telephone Company of Ohio dba Sprint in 2002.

Applicant agrees to supply, to the best of its ability, information requested by the Commission's staff.

Considering the statements above, the Applicant requests the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio to:

1. use a reasonableness approach, based on an analysis of relevant revenue and expense accounts and anticipated reductions in the Applicant's sources of revenue, as described in the attached Exhibit 3, to determine the allowable revenue increase;
2. waive the filing requirements of Chapter 4901-7, Ohio Administrative Code, and, if Applicant is seeking an increase in rates and charges under a different approach than rate base, rate of return regulation, waive the requirements of Chapter 4909, Revised Code, as necessary;
3. cause an investigation to be made of the facts set forth in this application; and
4. determine if the rates and charges proposed by the Applicant are reasonable or in the alternative determine what rates should be charged in order to provide a reasonable level of compensation for utility service.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President/Vice President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary/Treasurer

Company Address: S732 County Road 20B, Box A  
Ridgeville Corners, Ohio 43555

Company Phone Number (419) 267-5185

(Statement of Oath attached)

Respectfully submitted,

THE RIDGEVILLE TELEPHONE COMPANY

By: Carolyn S. Flahive

Thomas E. Lodge (0015741)  
Carolyn S. Flahive (0072404)  
Thompson Hine LLP  
10 West Broad Street, Suite 700  
Columbus, OH 43215  
Telephone (614) 469-3200  
Facsimile (614) 469-3361

Its Attorneys

364812

VERIFICATION

State of Ohio, \_\_\_\_\_ Henry \_\_\_\_\_ County, ss:

Larry Weridt,  
Name of Officer

[Signature], and  
(President) (Vice President)

Wallace Nelson,  
Name of Officer

[Signature], of  
(Secretary) (Treasurer)

The Ridgeville Telephone Company, being first duly sworn hereby verify this application.  
Name of Applicant

[Signature]  
[Signature]

Sworn and subscribed before me this 29th day of July, 2003.

[Signature]  
Notary Public

DAVID H. GOBROGGE  
NOTARY PUBLIC-STATE OF OHIO  
My Commission Expires June 19, 2006

EXHIBIT 1

CURRENT AND PROPOSED RATES

<u>Service</u>	<u>Customers</u>	<u>Current Monthly Rate</u>	<u>Annual Revenues</u>	<u>Proposed Monthly Rate</u>	<u>Annual Revenues</u>	<u>Annual Increase in Revenue</u>
Single Access* – Business	234	\$4.05	\$11,372.40	\$10.95	\$30,747.60	\$19,375.20
Single Access* – Residential	566	2.75	18,678.00	6.25	42,450.00	\$23,772.00
Single Access - Miscellaneous	18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Single Access – Edge Out Territory**						
- Business	0	4.05	0.00	15.95	0.00	0.00
- Residential	0	2.75	<u>0.00</u>	9.50	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
			\$30,050.40		\$73,197.60	\$43,147.20

\* Ridgeville Corners Exchange

\*\* Evansport, Archbold, Gerald, Wauseon and Napoleon Exchanges

## EXHIBIT 2

The Ridgeville Telephone Company proposes that the Staff analyze relevant revenue and expense accounts, review the impact of anticipated reductions in the Applicant's sources of revenue, and perform appropriate analysis to gauge the reasonableness of the rates and revenue increases proposed herein.

### EXHIBIT 3

Customers will be informed of the proposed rate increases via a bill insert that will be mailed between August 6-August 10, 2003. Attached is a pre-production copy of the insert that was approved by Commission Staff on July 30, 2003.



# THE RIDGEVILLE TELEPHONE COMPANY

## CUSTOMER NOTICE

The Ridgeville Telephone Company has filed an application with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("PUCO") requesting authority to raise rates for basic local telephone service.

The following rates are impacted by the request for a rate increase:

<u>Service(s)</u>	<u>Present Monthly Rates</u>	<u>Proposed Monthly Rates</u>	<u>Amount of Increase</u>
Single Access – Business*	\$4.05	\$10.95	\$6.90
Single Access – Residential*	\$2.75	\$6.25	\$3.50
Single Access – Business**	\$4.05	\$15.95	\$11.90
Single Access – Residential**	\$2.75	\$9.50	\$6.75

\* Ridgeville Corners Exchange

\*\* Applies only to customers located in the Evansport, Archbold, Gerald, Wauseon and Napoleon Exchanges

The PUCO will be conducting a public forum in the affected service area in the very near future for the purpose of explaining to the public the proposed increase and allowing affected customers an opportunity to testify regarding concerns about the level of the proposed rate increase and the quality of service. All interested persons will be permitted to participate in such forum without the need for formal intervention. When the PUCO schedules the public forum, it will require the company to give affected customers notice of the date, time and location.

If you have any questions concerning these new rates, you may contact our business office at (419) 267-5185 from 8:00 to 4:30 p.m. or the PUCO at 1-800-686-7826, or the Ohio Consumers' Counsel at 1-800-282-9448.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing Application were served upon the following by first class mail, postage prepaid, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of August 2003.

Mr. David Bergmann  
Ohio Consumers' Counsel  
10 W. Broad Street, Suite 1800  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Joseph R. Stewart, Esq.  
United Telephone Company of Ohio dba Sprint  
50 East Broad Street, Suite 36<sup>th</sup> floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Roger Miller, Township Trustee  
Bruce Hesterman, Township Trustee  
Larry Wendt, Township Trustee  
Ridgeville Township Hall  
20601 U.S. Highway 6  
Box 65  
Ridgeville Corners, Ohio 43555

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Carolyn S. Flahive