

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-3265**

Public Meeting held June 18, 2020

**Bentleyville Communications
Corporation d/b/a Consolidated
Communications/Bentleyville 2020
Annual Price Stability Index / Service
Price Index Filing and Supplement No.
118 to Tariff - Telephone PA P.U.C.
No. 6**

Docket No. R-2020-3019514

**Bentleyville Communications
Corporation d/b/a Consolidated
Communications/Bentleyville
Amended Alternative Regulation and
Network Modernization Plan**

Docket No. P-00981427F1000

STATEMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN DAVID W. SWEET

This case involves the annual Chapter 30 alternative regulation Price Stability Mechanism filing by Bentleyville Communications Corporation.

In this year's filing, the company proposes to increase its monthly residential access line rate by \$2.00. To do this, the company banks the entire \$7,162 available in this current 2020 filing and draws the required funds from its banked 2017 deferred increase. Per the order approved today, "the Company must retire the remaining 2016 banked amount of \$10,218 in the instant filing."

As our order acknowledges, the company's effective Chapter 30 plan allows it to bank deferred increases "for a period not to exceed four (4) consecutive years." If the company deferred the 2016 allowed revenue increase by depositing it in its bank as part of its 2016 filing, it should have four consecutive years to use it. A one-year bank would mean it could be used up through, including in, its next annual filing in May 2017. By extrapolation, a four-year bank should provide the company use of the 2016 banked amount up through, including in, its May 2020 filing. If not used in the last filing available through the end of its fourth consecutive year, it then must be retired in that filing, but not before.

While I believe that this is the intended and logical interpretation of a four-year bank, the company did not propose to use the 2016 bank in its 2020 filing.

For this reason, I am not dissenting from approval of the order before us. However, I am voting to concur in the result only.



Date: June 18, 2020

**David W. Sweet
Vice Chairman**