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December 28, 1998

The Honorable Dale Hardy Roberts  
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge  
Missouri Public Service Commission  
301 West High Street, Floor 5A  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

FILED

DEC 28 1998

Missouri Public  
Service Commission

Re: Case No. TO-99-227

Dear Judge Roberts:

Enclosed, for filing in the above-captioned case, are an original and fourteen copies of Opposition of Southwestern Bell Telephone Company to Motion to Modify Schedule filed by AT&T, Sprint & MCI.

Thank you for bringing this matter to the attention of the Commission.

Very truly yours,

*Paul G. Lane /tm*

Paul G. Lane

Enclosure

cc: All Attorneys of Record

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

**FILED**  
DEC 28 1998  
Missouri Public  
Service Commission

Application of Southwestern Bell Telephone )  
Company to Provide Notice of Intent to File )  
an Application for Authorization to Provide )  
In-Region InterLATA Services Originating )  
in Missouri Pursuant to Section 271 of the )  
Telecommunications Act of 1996 )

Case No. TO-99-227

**OPPOSITION OF SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY TO MOTION  
TO MODIFY PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE FILED BY AT&T, SPRINT & MCI**

COMES NOW Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (hereafter "SWBT") and  
for its Response to the Motion to Modify Procedural Schedule filed by AT&T  
Communications of the Southwest, Inc., TCG St. Louis, Inc., and TCG Kansas City, Inc.  
(hereafter "AT&T"), Sprint Communications, LLP (hereafter "Sprint") and MCI  
Telecommunications Corporation (hereafter "MCI") states as follows:

1. AT&T filed the same procedural schedule it proposes here on November  
24, 1998. SWBT made its opposition to that procedural schedule known in its response  
filed on December 4, 1998. The Commission's Order of December 9, 1998 rejected  
AT&T's procedural schedule. December 9, 1998 Order at pp. 3, 12-13. AT&T provides  
no explanation of changed circumstances that would justify adopting the same procedural  
schedule previously rejected by the Commission less than three weeks ago.

2. MCI also previously supported the same procedural schedule advanced by  
AT&T. MCI's Reply to Proposed Schedules, filed December 7, 1998. Like AT&T, MCI

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provides no rationale or explanation of changed circumstances justifying the adoption of the same procedural schedule rejected by the Commission less than three weeks ago.

3. Among other problems, the AT&T/MCI/Sprint proposal contains no provision for surrebuttal testimony by SWBT. Apart from the principles of fair play and due process, the procedural schedule proposed by these interLATA carriers would not permit the Commission to make the most informed decision on SWBT's application. The Commission will clearly be in a better position to assess the merits of SWBT's entry into the long distance market if it is informed by SWBT's response to claims raised by various parties in rebuttal testimony. The concern that SWBT may "sandbag" the process by holding material for surrebuttal that should have been filed as direct testimony is unjustified, given SWBT's extensive filing of testimony by more than 20 witnesses encompassing thousands of pages.

4. Despite protestations to the contrary, these interexchange carriers will have no difficulty in providing testimony in opposition to SWBT's request pursuant to the existing procedural schedule. These carriers have appeared in parallel proceedings in other SWBT states and have demonstrated an ability to respond to SWBT's positions.

5. The Commission adopted the procedural schedule on December 9, 1998, after being fully informed through filings by various parties including Staff, OPC, MCI, AT&T, SWBT and others. No changed circumstances since December 9 have been shown, and the Commission should continue to adhere to that schedule.

WHEREFORE, for all the foregoing reasons, SWBT respectfully requests the

Commission to reject the Motion to Modify Procedural Schedule filed by AT&T, Sprint and MCI.

Respectfully submitted,

SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY

By Paul G. Lane /tm  
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Opposition of Southwestern Bell Telephone Company to Motion to Modify Schedule filed by AT&T, Sprint & MCI was served by first-class, postage prepaid U.S. Mail, on all parties on the attached service list this 28th day of December, 1998.

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