

# BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of Southwestern Bell )  
Telephone Company, L.P., d/b/a AT&T Missouri, for ) **File No. IK-2010-0124**  
Approval of an Amendment to an Interconnection )  
Agreement Under the Telecommunications Act of 1996. )

## ORDER APPROVING AMENDMENT TO INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT

Issue Date: November 24, 2009

Effective Date: December 4, 2009

This order approves the amendment to the interconnection agreement between the parties filed by Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, d/b/a AT&T Missouri.

On October 26, 2009, AT&T Missouri filed an application with the Commission for approval of an amendment to its interconnection agreement with MCImetro Access Transmission Services, LLC. AT&T Missouri and MCImetro currently have a Commission-approved interconnection agreement between them which, in the current application, they have agreed to amend. The amendment was filed pursuant to Section 252(e)(1) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.<sup>1</sup> The amendment reflects the Memorandum and Order, and Declaratory Judgment and Permanent Injunction entered by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri in Case No. 4:05-CV-1264 CAS (September 14, 2006).<sup>2</sup> The amendment also reflects certain Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) intercarrier compensation provisions pursuant to Section 392.550 as reflected in the newly enacted H.B. 1779.

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<sup>1</sup> See 47 U.S.C. § 251, *et seq.*

<sup>2</sup> The Court's rulings were affirmed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit in Case No. 06-3701.

Both AT&T Missouri and MCImetro hold certificates of service authority to provide basic local exchange telecommunications services in Missouri.

Although MCImetro is a party to the Agreement, it did not join in the application. On October 26, 2009, the Commission issued an order making MCImetro a party in this case and directing any party wishing to request a hearing to do so no later than November 16, 2009.

Under Section 252(e) of the Act, any interconnection agreement adopted by negotiation must be submitted to the Commission for approval. The Commission may reject an agreement if it finds that the agreement is discriminatory or that it is not consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity.

On November 20, 2009, the Staff of the Commission filed a memorandum and recommendation. The Staff memorandum recommends that the amendment to the Agreement be approved and notes that the Agreement meets the limited requirements of the Act in that it is not discriminatory toward nonparties and is not against the public interest. Staff recommends that the Commission direct the parties to submit any further amendments to the Commission for approval.

### **Findings of Fact**

The Missouri Public Service Commission, having considered all of the competent and substantial evidence upon the whole record, makes the following findings of fact.

The Commission has considered the application, the supporting documentation, and Staff's verified recommendation, which are hereby admitted into evidence. Based upon that review, the Commission concludes that the Agreement as amended meets the requirements of the Act in that it does not discriminate against a nonparty carrier and

implementation of the Agreement as amended is not inconsistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity. The Commission finds that approval of the Agreement as amended shall be conditioned upon the parties submitting any further amendments to the Commission for approval pursuant to the procedure set out below.

### **Amendment Procedure**

The Commission has a duty to review all resale and interconnection agreements, whether arrived at through negotiation or arbitration, as mandated by the Act.<sup>3</sup> In order for the Commission's role of review and approval to be effective, the Commission must also review and approve or recognize amendments to these agreements. The Commission has a further duty to make a copy of every resale and interconnection agreement available for public inspection.<sup>4</sup> This duty is in keeping with the Commission's practice under its own rules of requiring telecommunications companies to keep their rate schedules on file with the Commission.<sup>5</sup>

The parties to each resale or interconnection agreement must maintain a complete and current copy of the agreement, together with all amendments, in the Commission's offices. Any proposed amendment must be submitted pursuant to Commission rule 4 CSR 240-3.513(6).

### **Conclusions of Law**

The Missouri Public Service Commission has arrived at the following conclusions of law.

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<sup>3</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 252.

<sup>4</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 252(h).

<sup>5</sup> 4 CSR 240-3.545.

The Commission, under the provisions of Section 252(e)(1) of the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996,<sup>6</sup> is required to review negotiated interconnection agreements. It may only reject a negotiated agreement upon a finding that its implementation would be discriminatory to a nonparty or inconsistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity.<sup>7</sup> Based upon its review of the amendment to the Agreement between AT&T Missouri and MCImetro and its findings of fact, the Commission concludes that the Agreement as amended is neither discriminatory nor inconsistent with the public interest and shall be approved.

The Commission notes that prior to providing telecommunications services in Missouri, a party shall possess the following: (1) an interconnection agreement approved by the Commission; (2) except for wireless providers, a certificate of service authority from the Commission to provide interexchange or basic local telecommunications services; and (3) except for wireless providers, a tariff approved by the Commission.

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:**

1. The amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, d/b/a AT&T Missouri, and MCImetro Access Transmission Services, LLC, filed on October 26, 2009, is approved.

2. Any changes or amendments to this Agreement shall be submitted in compliance with 4 CSR 240-3.513(6).

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<sup>6</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(1).

<sup>7</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2)(A).

3. This order shall become effective on December 4, 2009.
4. This file may be closed on December 5, 2009.

**BY THE COMMISSION**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Reed', is positioned above the printed name.

Steven C. Reed  
Secretary

( S E A L )

Nancy Dippell, Deputy Chief Regulatory  
Law Judge, by delegation of authority  
pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,  
on this 24th day of November, 2009.