

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
JEFFERSON CITY
April 21, 2000**

CASE NO: TA-2000-204

Office of the Public Counsel
P.O. Box 7800
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Enclosed find certified copy of NOTICE of *EX PARTE* in the above-numbered case(s).

Sincerely,



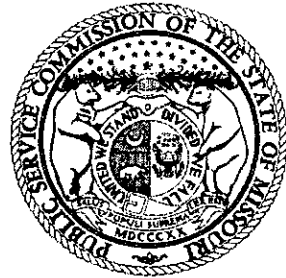
Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

Notice of *Ex Parte* Contact

TO: Records Department: All Parties in Case No. TA-2000-204
All Commissioners

FROM: Morris L. Woodruff
Regulatory Law Judge

DATE: April 21, 2000



On April 14, 2000, Judge Morris L. Woodruff received a phone message and subsequently had a phone conversation with Harry Thielepape, owner of Missouri State Discount Telephone. Mr. Thielepape wanted to know when the Commission would rule upon his application for certificate of service authority. Mr. Thielepape said that he did not appear for the on-the-record presentation on March 24, 2000 because he did not receive notice of that presentation and that if he had received such notice he would have appeared. Mr. Thielepape's statement was an argument that should have been made in an appropriate motion.

The Commission is bound by the same *ex parte* rule as a court of law. Pursuant to 4 CSR 240-4.020(4) it is improper for any person to attempt to sway the judgment of the Commission by undertaking, directly or indirectly, outside the hearing process, to bring pressure or influence to bear upon the Commission, or the Regulatory Law Judge assigned to the proceeding. Whenever such contact might occur 4 CSR 240-4.020(a) states: as *ex parte* communications (either oral or written) may occur inadvertently, any member of the Commission or Regulatory Law Judge who received the communication shall immediately prepare a written report concerning the communication and submit it to the Chair and each member of the Commission. The report shall identify the person(s) who participated in the *ex parte* communication, the circumstances that resulted in the communication, the substance of the communication, and the relationship of the communication to a particular matter at issue before the Commission.

Therefore, out of an abundance of caution, this notice of *ex parte* contact is being submitted pursuant to the standards set out in the rules cited above. This will ensure that any party to this case will have notice of the attached information and a full and fair opportunity to respond to the comments contained therein.

cc: Executive Director
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
General Counsel

**STATE OF MISSOURI
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and

I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City,
Missouri, this 21st day of April 2000.



Dale Hardy Roberts

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge