

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
JEFFERSON CITY**

June 6, 2001

CASE NO: TO-2000-374

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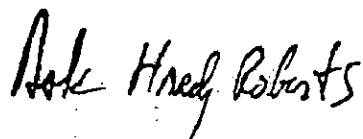
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Enclosed find certified copy of a NOTICE of EX PARTE in the above-numbered case(s).

Sincerely,

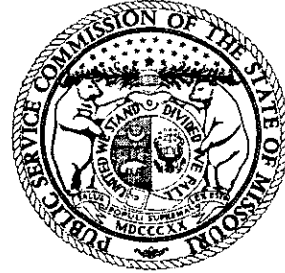
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale Hardy Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

Notice of *Ex Parte* Contact

TO: Records Department:
All Parties in Case No. **TO-2000-374**
All Commissioners

FROM: Chair Sheila Lumpe *SL*
Commissioner Connie Murray
Commissioner Kelvin Simmons
Commissioner Steve Gaw



DATE: June 6, 2001

On June 6, 2001, we received a letter from Margaret Hermes of St. Louis, Missouri. The Commission is currently considering the same issues as to those set out in this document in Case Number **TO-2000-374**. 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 judgement 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 which 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, we think it appropriate to submit this notice of *ex parte* contact 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

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June 4, 2001

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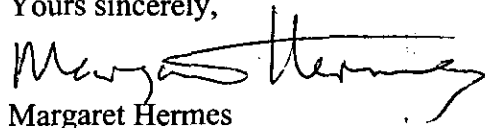
Dear Commission Chair Lumpe,

The adjoining letter to the editor appeared in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* on Friday, June 1. Given the number of calls I've received since its publication, I wanted to make sure members of the PSC had the opportunity to consider it.

Last year I had occasion to spend several weeks in Chicago where I had first-hand continued experience with ten-digit dialing. The practice was confusing, frustrating, inconvenient, and could be regarded in urgent situations as potentially dangerous.

I believe this situation could be avoided in the St. Louis metropolitan region and hope you will use your authority to veto a geographical overlay even though the technological overlay that I propose would require more effort and by telephone companies.

Yours sincerely,


Margaret Hermes

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

EDITORIAL

FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 2001

Too many numbers

Instead of the threatened geographical overlay in the 314 area code region, why not a technological overlay?

Under the geographical overlay, location will no longer be the deciding factor for an area code. Telephone users will be required to look up every listing to determine its area code, and then dial 10 digits even if calling next door.

With a technological overlay, we would keep 314 as a geographical designation servicing homes and businesses (i.e., actual addresses) and assign the new area code to cellular phones, dedicated fax machine lines and DSL computer service.

Rather than having to look up every number to check the area code, local callers could continue to use the seven-digit number to reach all homes and places of business within the 314 area code. They would know to add the new area code to preface calls to cell phones and fax machines.

Not only would this plan simplify usage, it seems a particularly apt solution since the utilities claim it is precisely the increase in cellular phones and DSL and fax lines that necessitates an overlay.

This is a case where the public needs to let the Public Service Commission know how it can be better served.

Margaret Hermes
St. Louis

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 6th day of June 2001.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dale Hardy Roberts".

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge