

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Southwestern Bell Telephone)
Company's Proposed Tariff Filed to Increase) TT-99-385
Activation Charge for Pay-Per-Use Auto Redial)
And Call Return; Increase Monthly Maximum.)

Statement of Objection

I respectfully disagree with the majority of the Commissioners in their decision to reject my motion to abrogate the Order Approving Tariff in Case No. TT-99-385. This motion was offered during the Commission's Agenda Meeting on April 1, 1999 as provided in Section 386.490.3, RSMo 1994.

The Order in question allowed Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBT) to increase its rates for two non-basic telecommunications services by 8%. Section 392.245.11, RSMo Supp. 1998, allows price-cap regulated incumbent local exchange telecommunications companies to increase their rates for these services if the increase is consistent with section 392.200, RSMo Supp. 1998, by not more than eight percent for each of the following twelve-month periods.

Section 392.200, RSMo Supp. 1998, requires that changes made and demanded by any telecommunications company for any service rendered shall be just and reasonable. This Commission has heard and read testimony on several occasions that these non-basic services are already priced at 200-700% above cost and in my opinion to increase them further does not meet the just and reasonable standard contemplated by the statute.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert G. Schemenauer
Commissioner

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 2nd day of April, 1999.

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COMMISSION COUNSEL
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION