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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the matter of the investigation into)	
the overearnings and modernization of)	
Eastern Missouri Telephone Company,)	Case No. TO-96-147
Missouri Telephone Company, and ALLTEL)	
Missouri, Inc.)	

DISSENTING OPINION OF COMMISSIONER KENNETH MCCLURE

The Commission established this docket on November 9, 1995, to deal with the modernization and alleged overearnings of Eastern Missouri Telephone Company, Missouri Telephone Company, and ALLTEL Missouri, Inc. The parties filed a Stipulation and Agreement on November 22, 1995, providing for a net revenue reduction of \$392,000.

I dissent because of the customer impact of this Order and the lack of timely notice to consumers that many of them will be paying higher rates. When this case was opened on November 9, it was billed as dealing with overearnings. However, according to figures contained in Exhibit 9, the customer rate impact is as follows:

Company	Decrease	Increase	Total
ALLTEL	11,101	18,364	29,465
Missouri Telephone	8,541	9,178	17,719
Eastern Missouri Telephone	<u>1,418</u>	<u>1,281</u>	<u>2,699</u>
Total	21,060	28,823	49,883

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Thus, 28,823 customers, or 58% of the total, will experience a rate increase, in some cases as high as 26%. All of this is happening in a case which was intended to deal with overearnings. I believe the consumer has been misled.

This is not to say that the increases may not be justified. As the majority notes, the Stipulation and Agreement will eliminate mileage, touch-tone and pay phone charges. Access charges are also reduced for interexchange carriers and the networks modernized. These are positive steps.

However, the consumers were not even notified of the potential rate impact until December 8, the very day the Commission held a hearing on the Stipulation and Agreement. Any opportunity for meaningful customer input before the Commission must make a decision has been effectively negated.

It is my suggestion to the parties that future proceedings of this nature be conducted in such a fashion that consumers are told early in the process what the rate impact will be and afforded adequate opportunity to participate in the proceedings.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Kenneth McClure', written in a cursive style.

Kenneth McClure
Commissioner

(S E A L)

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 21st day of December, 1995.