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March 22, 2000

FILED²

MAR 22 2000 *mh*

Missouri Public
Service Commission

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

TA-2000-591

Re: In the Matter of the Application of Mark Twain Communications Company for Designation as a Telecommunications Company Carrier Eligible for Federal Universal Service Support pursuant to Section 254 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed please find the original plus fourteen (14) copies of Application for Designation as Eligible Carrier Pursuant to Section 254 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 for filing on behalf of Mark Twain Communications Company in the above referenced matter. Please bring this matter to the attention of the appropriate Commission personnel.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

BRYDON, SWEARENGEN & ENGLAND P.C.

By:

Sandra Morgan

Sondra B. Morgan

SBM/k

Enclosures

cc: Office of Public Counsel
Mr. Bill Rohde

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF MISSOURI

FILED²

MAR 22 2000 *nh*

Missouri Public
Service Commission

In the Matter of the Application of)
Mark Twain Communications Company)
for Designation as a Telecommunications)
Company Carrier Eligible for Federal Universal)
Service Support pursuant to § 254 of the)
Telecommunications Act of 1996.)

Case No. TA-2000-591

APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION AS ELIGIBLE CARRIER
PURSUANT TO § 254 OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996

Comes now Mark Twain Communications Company ("MTCC" or "Applicant") and pursuant to § 254 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("the Act"), as well as the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") regulations found at 47 CFR 54.201, et seq, issued with the May 7, 1997 Report and Order of the FCC in FCC Docket No. 96-45, and hereby requests that the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") designate it as a telecommunications carrier eligible under the provisions of 47 CFR 54.201(d) to receive federal universal service support.

In support of its Application, Applicant states as follows:

1. MTCC is a competitive local exchange company ("CLEC") certified by the Commission to provide basic local telecommunications service in the State of Missouri in Case No. TA-98-305. MTCC's street address and principal place of business is Hwy 6 East, Hurdland, MO 63547-0128. MTCC's Interconnection Agreement with GTE Midwest Incorporated ("GTE") was approved by this Commission in Case No. TO-98-410. Pursuant to tariffs approved by the Commission, MTCC provides basic local telecommunications service through a combination of the use of its own facilities and leased facilities in three Northeast Missouri exchanges, Ewing, La Belle and Lewistown.

2. All correspondence, communications, pleadings, notices, orders and decisions relating to this Application should be addressed to:

W.R. England, III
Sondra B. Morgan
Brydon, Swearngen & England P.C.
312 E. Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

and

Mr. Bill Rohde
Executive Vice President and General Manager
Mark Twain Communications Company
P.O. Box 128
Hurdland, MO 63547

3. Section 214(e)(1) of the Act states that a carrier may be designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier and therefore receive universal service support so long as the carrier, throughout its service area: (1) offers the services that are supported by federal universal service support mechanisms under section 254(c) of the Act; (2) offers such services using its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale of another carrier's services, including the services offered by another eligible telecommunications carrier; and (3) advertises the availability of and charges for such services using media of general distribution. Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations § 54.201(b) states that the Commission shall, on its own motion or upon request, designate a common carrier an "eligible telecommunications carrier" so long as the carrier meets the requirements of 47 CFR 54.201(d). Title 47 CFR § 54.201(c) further states that a state commission shall designate more than one common carrier

as an eligible telecommunications carrier for a service area designated by the state commission so long as the additional requesting carrier meets the requirements of § 54.201(d).

4. MTCC, through a combination of its own facilities and leased facilities, offers all of the services supported by federal universal service support under § 254(c) of the Act.

Specifically, MTCC offers the following services:

- (1) Voice grade access to the public switched network;
- (2) Local usage;
- (3) Dual tone multi-frequency signaling or its functional equivalent;
- (4) Single-party service or its functional equivalent;
- (5) Access to emergency services;
- (6) Access to operator services;
- (7) Access to interexchange service;
- (8) Access to directory assistance; and
- (9) Toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers.¹

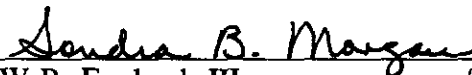
5. Applicant advertises the availability of and charges for such services using media of general distribution within its service area. An Affidavits of Publication showing proof of such advertising are attached as Appendix A.

¹On December 30, 1997, the FCC changed its definition of toll-limitation services in its Fourth Order on Reconsideration of the Universal Service Report and Order, CC Docket Nos. 96-45 et al. The FCC stated, "we define toll-limitation services as either toll blocking or toll control and require telecommunications carriers to offer only one, and not necessarily both, of those services at this time in order to be designated as eligible telecommunications carriers." Id. at 2103. MTCC currently offers toll blocking service to qualifying customers.

6. Applicant acknowledges that 47 CFR 54.405 requires all eligible telecommunications carriers to make Lifeline services (as defined in 47 CFR 54.401) available to qualifying low-income consumers. Lifeline services are available to qualifying low-income consumers in its service area.

WHEREFORE, on the basis of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the Commission designate it as a telecommunications carrier eligible under the provisions of 47 CFR 54.201(d) to receive federal universal service support and for such other orders as are deemed necessary or convenient in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,


W.R. England, III #23975
Sondra B. Morgan #35482
BRYDON, SWEARENGEN & ENGLAND P.C.
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0456
(573) 635-7166

Attorneys for Mark Twain Communications
Company

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certified that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was hand delivered this 22nd day of March, 2000 to the Office of Public Counsel, Truman State Office Building, Jefferson City, MO 65101.

Sondra B. Morgan
Sondra B. Morgan

VERIFICATION

STATE OF MISSOURI)
) ss
COUNTY OF KNOX)

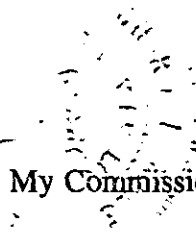
William Rohde, having been duly sworn upon his oath, states that he is Executive Vice President and General Manager of Mark Twain Communications Company, the Applicant herein, and as such, is duly authorized by the Applicant to execute the foregoing Application and to make this Affidavit on its behalf, and that the matters and things stated in the foregoing Application and Appendices thereto are true and correct the best of his knowledge, information and belief.



Name William Rohde
Title Executive Vice President & General
 Manager
Address Mark Twain Communications Co.
 PO Box 128
 Hurdland, MO 63547

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a Notary Public, on this 16th day of March,
2000.


Notary Public

 My Commission Expires. RICHARD L HALE
NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF MISSOURI
 ADAIR COUNTY
MY COMMISSION EXP MAY 31, 2000

APPENDIX A

Proof of Publication

STATE OF MISSOURI, }
 County of Knox, } ss.

Hazel Bledsoe Smith, of lawful

being duly sworn, according to law, states that she is one of the publishers of ~~The Edina Sentinel~~, a weekly newspaper, printed and published in Edina, Knox County, Missouri, that the notice, a true copy of which is hereto attached, was published in said newspaper for

The LaBelle Star
ck

two weeks successively and in the following numbers and on the following dates, to-wit:

1st Insertion, No. *21* Vol., *1st* day of *Dec.*, 19*99*

2d Insertion, No. Vol., day of 19...
 3d Insertion, No. Vol., day of 19...
 4th Insertion, No. Vol., day of 19...
 5th Insertion, No. Vol., day of 19...

that said newspaper is a newspaper of general circulation in said county; that said newspaper has been admitted to the postoffice in the city of Edina, where published, as second class matter, and has been published in said county regularly and consecutively for a period of more than three years prior to the publication of the notice herein mentioned; that said newspaper has a list of bona fide subscribers voluntarily engaged as such or who have paid or agreed to pay a stated price for a subscription for a definite period of time; and that said newspaper has complied with the provisions of Section 14,968, pages 3814 and 3815, Revised Statutes of Missouri, 1939.

Hazel Bledsoe Smith, Publisher.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this *23rd* day of *Dec.*, 19*99*

(SEAL) *Maryue Davidson* Notary Public.
 My commission expires *March 13, 2001*

NOTICE

Mark Twain Communications Company is a quality telecommunications services provider who provides basic and enhanced services at reasonable rates within its service territory. Basic services are offered at the following rates:

	Monthly Rate
Single Party Residence Service	\$6.25
Single Party Business Service	\$12.75
Single Party Residence Service Using GTE Facilities	\$47.60
Single Party Business Service Using GTE Facilities	\$54.10
Federal Subscriber Line Charge-Single Line	\$3.50
Tone Dial Service	No Charge
Toll Blocking	\$5.00 (See Note)

Directory Assistance - The first three direct dialed calls per month are free; each additional direct dialed call is charged \$.50 per request.

Emergency 911 Services - Surcharges for 911 services are assessed according to government assessments.

Low-Income Individuals eligible for Lifeline and Link-Up telephone assistance programs may be eligible for discounts from these basic local charges through state specified telephone assistance plans.

Basic services are offered to all consumers in the Mark Twain Communications Company service territories at the rates, terms and conditions specified in the Company's tariffs. If you have any questions regarding the Company's services, please call us at 1-877-682-2835, or visit our business office at Hurdland, Missouri for further information regarding our services.

NOTE: Toll Blocking is available at no charge for low-income customers who qualify.

received payment from.....

led and recorded this..... this.....day of....., 19...
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publication fee \$ *20.86* By.....

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF MISSOURI }
 COUNTY OF LEWIS } SS.

I, Daniel W. Steinbeck, being duly sworn according to law, state that I am the editor of *The Press-News Journal*, a weekly newspaper of general circulation in the County of Lewis; which has been admitted to the Post Office as a periodical in the City of Canton, which newspaper has been published regularly and consecutively for a period of three years and has a list of bona fide subscribers voluntarily engaged as such who have paid or agreed to pay a stated price for a subscription for a definite period of time, and that such newspaper has complied with the provisions of Section 473.033 Revised Statutes of Missouri, 1949. The affixed notice appeared in said newspaper on the following consecutive weeks (issues).

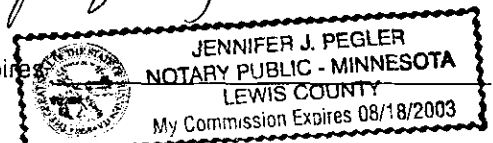
From Dec 2, 1999 to Dec 2, 1999
 First insertion December 2, 1999
 Second insertion _____, 19____
 Third insertion _____, 19____
 Fourth insertion _____, 19____
 Fifth insertion _____, 19____

Daniel W. Steinbeck
 Editor

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 10th day of December, 1999

Jennifer J. Pegler Notary Public

My commission expires



Filed and Recorded this _____ day of _____, 19____

Mark Twain Communications Company is a quality telecommunications services provider who provides basic and enhanced services at reasonable rates within its service territory. Basic services are offered at the following rates:

	MONTHLY RATES
Single Party Residence Service	\$6.25
Single Party Business Service	\$12.75
Single Party Residence Service using GTE Facilities	\$47.60
Single Party Business Service using GTE Facilities	\$54.10
Single Party Business Service using GTE Facilities	\$3.50
Federal Subscriber Line Charge	No Charge
Tone Dial Service	\$5.00 - (See Note)
Toll Blocking	No Charge

Directory Assistance - The first text dialed calls per month are free, each additional direct dialed call is \$0.50 per request.

Emergency 911 Services - Surrogate 911 services are assessed according to government assessment.

Low-income individuals eligible for **Link-Up** telephone assistance programs may be eligible for discounting these basic local charges through state specified telephone assistance programs.

Basic services are offered to all in the Mark Twain Communications Company service territory, terms and conditions specified in the Company's tariffs. If you have questions regarding the Company's services, please call us at 1-800-447-4477 or visit our business office at Hurdland, Missouri for further information regarding our services.

Note - Toll Blocking is available for low-income customers that qualify.

Printer's Fee: \$ 29.25