BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

| In the Matter of the Review of the Deaf |) | |
|--|---|-----------------------|
| Relay Service and Equipment Distribution |) | Case No. TO-2013-0416 |
| Fund Surcharge. |) | |

AT&T MISSOURI'S APPLICATION TO INTERVENE AND RESPONSE TO STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION

AT&T Missouri¹ respectfully submits this Application to Intervene in the above-captioned proceeding, in accordance with Commission Rule 2.075 (4 CSR 240-2.075). AT&T Missouri further reports that it has no objection to Staff's recommendation to decrease the current Relay Missouri surcharge, from \$.11 per month to \$.08 per month, so long as the Commission allows at least a 60-day implementation period. This implementation period --which the Commission has consistently allowed in the past -- is needed so that AT&T Missouri can timely provide advance bill messages to its customers and implement necessary billing system changes.

In support of this Application and Response, AT&T Missouri states:

1. AT&T Missouri is a Delaware corporation with its principal Missouri office at One AT&T Center, Room 3520, St. Louis, Missouri 63101. AT&T Missouri is a "local exchange telecommunications company" and a "public utility," and is duly authorized to provide "telecommunications service" within the State of Missouri as each of those phrases is defined in Section 386.020 RSMo.

¹ Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, d/b/a AT&T Missouri ("AT&T Missouri").

2. All correspondence, pleadings, orders, decisions and communications regarding this proceeding should be sent to:

Leo J. Bub Robert J. Gryzmala Attorneys for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, d/b/a AT&T Missouri One AT&T Center, Room 3520 St. Louis, Missouri 63101

- 3. This case arose from Staff's March 12, 2013 motion requesting that the Commission decrease the surcharge from \$.11 per month to \$.08 per month. In the Commission's March 13, 2013 Order and Notice, the Commission directed that any party wishing to intervene and to respond to Staff's recommendation do so by not later than March 22, 2013.
- 4. The Commission should permit AT&T Missouri to intervene in this case pursuant to Commission Rule 2.075(4)(B) (4 CSR 240-2.075(4)(B)) because doing so would be in the public interest. AT&T Missouri bills the Relay Missouri surcharge to its end-user customers. Thus, it has a significant and direct interest in the operation of the Relay Missouri program in general, and in the continued accurate and timely billing of any Commission-ordered surcharge in particular. Additionally, AT&T Missouri will bring to this proceeding its extensive experience as a telecommunications provider. AT&T Missouri also has intervened and participated in previous instances when the Commission has had occasion to address the same surcharge it has been asked to address in this case.
- 5. AT&T Missouri has no objection to Staff's recommendation. If, however, the Commission ultimately determines to change the monthly surcharge amount, whether by increasing it or by decreasing it, the Commission should make its order doing so effective not less than approximately 60 days from the date on which the order is issued, so that AT&T

Missouri can timely provide advance bill messages to its customers and implement necessary billing system changes. Staff's own motion (at 1) supports allowing such a lead time, and the Commission's granting it would be in keeping with its prior orders.²

Respectfully submitted,

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² See, Case No. TO-2009-0042, Order Adopting Relay Missouri Fund Review and Reducing Fund Surcharge (issued November 23, 2010), at 4 (ordering that "[t]he Relay Missouri Surcharge shall be reduced to \$0.11, effective March 3, 2011"); Case No. TO-2005-0308, Report and Order (issued June 28, 2005, effective July 1, 2005), at 9 (ordering that "the Relay Missouri surcharge shall be raised to \$.13 per month per access line, effective September 1, 2005").

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing document were served to all parties by e-mail on March 14, 2013.

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