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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Re: Green Hills Telephone Corporation)
and Wheeling Telephone Company)
- Joint Application to Merge.)

CASE NO. TM-95-323

CONCURRING OPINION BY COMMISSIONER HAROLD CRUMPTON

I concur with my colleagues in their approval of the Stipulation and Agreement concerning the settlement of the over earnings of the Green Hills Telephone Corporation (Green Hills) and the Wheeling Telephone Company (Wheeling). I also agree with the merger of Wheeling with and into Green Hills. Both actions are in the public interest.

The Commission, in its decision has approved two very important policy changes. The first change involves the approval of a more liberal depreciation schedule for small telephone companies. This will provide needed cash flow for financing much needed modernization of basic plant and equipment for telemedicine and distance learning projects in outstate Missouri.

The second policy issue concerns the provisioning of a special amortization fund for the purpose of providing additional internal financing for plant modernization. While information was provided which supported the implementation and expansion of these policies, the Staff of the Commission (Staff) in future cases ought to be prepared to support policy implementations with standards that can be shared with all of Missouri's citizenry. The standards should include both the conditions under which a policy will be

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applied, and why it should be applied in a particular case. Commission policy without standards should not be applied at all.

Particularly in stipulated cases, the Staff must keep in mind the amount and type of information necessary for the Commission to understand and approve the settlement proposal. The Commission needs as complete a record as possible in order to effectively discharge its statutory duties.

Respectfully submitted,


Harold Crumpton, Commissioner

(S E A L)

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 30th day of August, 1995.