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November 5, 1999

MARY ANN YOUNG Attorney At Law Of Counsel (573) 634-8109 Fax (573) 634-8224

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts Executive Secretary-Chief Regulatory Law Judge Missouri Public Service Commission P. O. Box 360 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0360

FILED NOV - 5 1999 Missouri Public Vivice Commission

RE: Case No.  $\underline{TD} - 2000 - 320$ Application for Approval of Cancellation of Certificate

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed please find an original and fourteen copies of the

## Application for Approval of Cancellation of Certificate

of Advanced Communications Group, Inc., for filing with the Commission. Thank you for your assistance in processing this filing.

A copy is being served on the Office of Public Counsel. If there are any questions, please call me at 634-8109.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann (Garr) Youn

Enclosure

cc: Public Counsel Jean Stockman, Swidler Berlin

# BEFORE THE MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Application of Advanced Communications Group, Inc. For Approval of Cancellation of Certificate

Case No. $TD - 2000 - 32$	0
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FILED NOV - 5 1999

<sup>S</sup>ublic I**miss**ion

## APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF CANCELLATION OF CERTIFICATE

Advanced Communications Group, Inc. ("ACG"), by its undersigned counsel and pursuant to § 392.460 RSMo., hereby requests approval of the cancellation of ACG's certificate to provide basic local exchange telecommunications services within the State of Missouri. As explained more thoroughly below, ACG's relinquishment of this certificate is part of a larger transaction whereby ACG's telecommunications businesses are being acquired by Ionex Telecommunications, Inc. ("Ionex"). Because ACG has no local exchange customers in Missouri, the cancellation of ACG's certificate will not deprive any Missouri consumers of telecommunications service or otherwise be contrary to the public interest. In support of ACG's request for cancellation, the following is respectfully shown:

# I. <u>ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.</u>

ACG is a publicly traded Delaware corporation with principal offices located at 390 South Woods Mill Road, Suite 150, Chesterfield, Missouri 63017. ACG is a competitive provider of integrated telecommunications services, including local and long distance services, Internet access, and paging and cellular services, to small- and medium-sized business customers primarily located in the Midwestern United States. ACG is authorized to provide resold intrastate interexchange and/or competitive local exchange services in eight states, including Missouri. Although ACG is authorized to provide basic local exchange telecommunications services in those telephone exchanges served by Southwestern Bell Telephone Company within the State of Missouri pursuant to Commission Order issued in Case No. TA-99-49 (May 4, 1999), ACG currently does not serve any customers in Missouri. Further information concerning ACG was filed with its application for certification, filed in Case No. TA-99-49. That information is, therefore, already a matter of public record at the Commission, and ACG respectfully requests that it be incorporated by reference herein.

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In addition, ACG has two Missouri operating subsidiaries, Feist Long Distance Service, Inc. ("Feist") and Telecom Resources, Inc. d/b/a TRINetwork, Inc. ("TRI"), which are authorized to provide resold intrastate interexchange and/or competitive local exchange services in Missouri. Feist is a Kansas corporation with principal offices located at 110 South Main Street, Wichita, Kansas 67202. In Missouri, Feist is authorized to provide intrastate interexchange and local exchange telecommunications services pursuant to Commission Order issued in Case No. TA-98-332 (Mar. 25, 1998). With respect to local exchange telecommunications services, Feist is authorized to provide only dedicated, nonswitched local exchange private line service.

TRI is a Texas corporation with principal offices located at 1950 Stemmons Freeway, Suite 4033, Dallas, Texas 75207. In Missouri, TRI is authorized to provide intrastate interexchange telecommunications services pursuant to Commission Order issued in Case No. TA-98-412 (May 15, 1998). TRI, however, currently does not serve any customers in the State of Missouri. Further information concerning Feist and TRI was filed with their respective applications for certification, and is incorporated herein by reference.

- 2 -



# II. DESIGNATED CONTACTS

The designated contacts for questions concerning this Application are:

Mary Ann (Garr) Young William D. Steinmeier, P.C. P.O. Box 104595 Jefferson City, MO 65110-4595 573/634-8109 (Tel) 573/634-8224 (Fax)

and:

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Grace R. Chiu Jeanne W. Stockman Swidler Berlin Shereff Friedman, LLP 3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 300 Washington, D.C. 20007 202/424-7500 (Tel) 202/424-7645 (Fax)

with a copy to:

Anthony Capers President and Chief Operating Officer Advanced Communications Group, Inc. 1895 Plaza Drive, Suite 120 Eagan, MN 55122

# III. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO CANCEL CERTIFICATE

As stated above, ACG requests cancellation of its certificate because ACG intends to sell its

telecommunications businesses and focus instead on its directory publishing business. To that end,

ACG intends to transfer control of its telecommunications operating subsidiaries, Feist and TRI, to

Ionex Telecommunications, Inc.<sup>1/</sup> Following closing of the proposed transfers of control, Feist and

 $<sup>\</sup>frac{1}{2}$  The Commission, by Order dated October 19, 1999, dismissed ACG's application for approval of the transfer of control, docketed in Case No. TM-2000-146, finding the facts presented did not require prior Commission approval.

TRI will continue to provide telecommunications services to the public as direct, wholly owned subsidiaries of Ionex. ACG, however, will no longer offer telecommunications services within the State of Missouri. Accordingly, ACG respectfully requests Commission authority to cancel its certificate to provide competitive local exchange telecommunications services in those telephone exchanges served by Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, issued by Commission Order in Case No. TA-99-49 (May 4, 1999). ACG requests that this cancellation be effective as of the closing date of the proposed transfers of control of Feist and TRI, upon written notice from ACG to the Commission that those transfers of control have been consummated.

#### IV. PUBLIC INTEREST CONSIDERATIONS

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As required by Section 392.460, cancellation of ACG's certificate will not deprive any customers of basic local or intrastate interexchange telecommunications service or access thereto, and is not otherwise contrary to the public interest. Because ACG was just recently granted its certificate and does not currently have any customers, no Missouri consumers will be deprived of telecommunications service or access thereto if the Commission approves cancellation of ACG's certificate. The telecommunications industry is growing increasingly competitive, with numerous innovative and highly-qualified certificated providers able to serve the telecommunications needs of Missouri consumers. Accordingly, no harm will result to Missouri consumers or to the competitive landscape of the Missouri telecommunications market from the cancellation of ACG's certificate.

# IV. CONCLUSION

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WHEREFORE, for the reasons stated herein, Advanced Communications Group, Inc. respectfully requests that the Commission approve this Application to permit the cancellation of its certificate, and grant all other relief as necessary and appropriate to effectuate the request described herein.

Respectfully submitted,

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Grace R. Chiu (D.C. Bar No. 451330) Jeanne W. Stockman (D.C. Bar No. 454301) SWIDLER BERLIN SHEREFF FRIEDMAN, LLP 3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 300 Washington, D.C. 20007 (202) 424-7500 (telephone) (202) 424-7643 (facsimile)

Mary Ann (Garr) Young (Mo. Bar No. 27951) WILLIAM D. STEINMEIER, P.C. P.O. Box 104595 Jefferson City, MO 65110-4595 (573) 634-8109 (telephone) (573) 634-8224 (facsimile)

Counsel to Advanced Communications Group, Inc.

Dated: November 5, 1999

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a copy of this document has been hand delivered or mailed by first class mail, postage prepaid, to the the Office of Public Counsel on this 5th day of November 1999.

Hary Ann (Garr) You

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# **VERIFICATION**

) STATE OF MISSOURI ) SS COUNTY OF SAINT LOUIS )

I, <u>MICHAEL A. PRUSS</u>, declare under penalty of perjury that I am <u>VICE PRESIDENT AND CFO</u> of Advanced Communications Group, Inc.; that I have read the foregoing Joint Application and know the contents thereof; and that the same are true of my own knowledge, except as to the matters which are therein stated on information or belief, and as to those matters I believe them to be true.

By:

ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.

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