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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Petition of Birch Telecom of)
Missouri, Inc. for Arbitration of the Rates, Terms,) Case No. TO-98-278
Conditions and Related Arrangements for Interconnection With Southwestern Bell Telephone Company.

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR ARBITRATION

On December 31, 1997, Birch Telecom of Missouri, Inc. (Birch) filed a petition for arbitration with the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) to establish an interconnection agreement between Birch and Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBT) pursuant to Section 252(b) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act). See 47 U.S.C. § 252(b).

Therefore, the Commission gives notice to SWBT of the petition for arbitration. SWBT will have twenty-five days to respond to the petition and file any additional information it may deem necessary.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

- 1. That the Records Department shall send a copy of this order to Southwestern Bell Telephone Company.
- 2. That Southwestern Bell Telephone Company shall have until February 2, 1998, to file its response to the petition of Birch Telecom of Missouri, Inc.

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3. That this order shall become effective on January 8, 1998.

BY THE COMMISSION

Ask Hard Roberts

Dale Hardy Roberts Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(SEAL)

Kevin F. Hennessey, Regulatory Law Judge, by delegation of authority pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.120(1) (November 30, 1995) and Section 386.240, RSMo 1994.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri, on this 8th day of January, 1998.