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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of US West)
Interprise America, Inc. d/b/a INTERPRISE)
America, Inc., for Approval of Interconnection)
Agreement Under the Telecommunications Act of)
1996.)

Case No. TO-2000-254

ORDER DIRECTING NOTICE AND MAKING
SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY A PARTY

On September 27, 1999, US West Interprise America, Inc., d/b/a INTERPRISE America, Inc. (Interprise), filed an application with the Commission for approval of an interconnection agreement with Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBT) under the provisions of the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act). The applicant states that there are no unresolved issues and that the agreement complies with Section 252(e) of the Act in that it is not discriminatory to nonparty carriers and is consistent with the public interest. Interprise requests expeditious approval of the agreement.

The Act provides that an interconnection agreement must be approved unless the state commission finds that the agreement discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement, or that implementation of the agreement is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity. 47 U.S.C. § 252(e).

Although SWBT is a party to the agreement, it did not join in the application. The Commission will make SWBT a party to this case.

The Commission finds that proper persons should be allowed 20 days from the issuance of this order to file a motion for hearing or an application to participate without intervention. Participation may be permitted for the limited purpose of filing comments addressing whether this agreement meets the federal standards for approval of interconnection agreements. The requirement of a hearing is met when an opportunity to be heard has been provided and no proper party has requested the opportunity to present evidence. State ex rel. Rex Deffenderfer Enterprises, Inc. v. Public Service Commission, 776 S.W.2D 494, 496 (Mo. App. 1989).

Section 252(e)(4) of the Act provides that if the Commission has not approved an agreement within 90 days after submission, the agreement shall be deemed approved. Therefore, the Commission will proceed with this case expeditiously and, if there are no requests for a hearing, relief may be granted based on the verified petition. The Commission finds that notice of this application should be sent to all interexchange and local exchange telecommunications companies.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the Records Department of the Commission shall send notice to all interexchange and local exchange telecommunications companies.

2. That Southwestern Bell Telephone Company is made a party to this case.

3. That any party wishing to request a hearing or to participate without intervention in this matter shall file an application no later than October 25, 1999, with:

Dale H. Roberts, Secretary
Missouri Public Service Commission
Post Office Box 360
Jefferson City, Missouri, 65102

and send copies to:

Mark P. Johnson
Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal
4520 Main Street, Suite 1100
Kansas City, Missouri 64111

and:

Office of the Public Counsel
Post Office Box 7800
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

4. That the Staff of the Commission shall file a memorandum advising either approval or rejection of this agreement and giving the reasons therefor no later than December 6, 1999.

5. That this order shall become effective on October 14, 1999.

BY THE COMMISSION

(S E A L)



Dale H. Roberts
Chief Regulatory Law Judge/Secretary

Vicky Ruth, 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 4th day of October, 1999.

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COMMISSION COUNSEL
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION