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**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a Session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office
in Jefferson City on the 27th
day of April, 2000.

In the Matter of the Application of Southwestern)
Bell Telephone Company for Expedited Approval) Case No. TT-2000-643
of its General Exchange Tariff) Tariff No. 200000942

ORDER APPROVING TARIFF

On April 13, 2000, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBT) filed with the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) its proposed revision of its Missouri General Exchange Tariff, P.S.C. Mo.-No. 35, Section 44, EasyOptions® Packages. SWBT filed no pleading, but in its cover letter stated that the filing proposed to revise the monthly discount rate (business only) for the BASICSsm package in accordance with the tariff sheet attached to the letter. SWBT stated that the issued date of the revision was April 13, 2000, and that the effective date was May 13, 2000. SWBT "...requested that this filing be expedited to be effective on May 1, 2000, if possible." SWBT stated no reason for its request for expedited treatment.

Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.065(2) states, in part:

When a public utility regulated by the Public Service Commission submits a tariff for commission approval but requests the tariff [to] become effective in less than thirty (30) days . . . [such] request for less than thirty (30)-day approval must state good cause for such treatment.

On April 19, 2000, the Commission ordered SWBT to state its reason for the request pursuant to Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.065(2) and on April 20, 2000, SWBT filed its response.

SWBT stated that it had filed on March 30, 2000, revised tariff sheets proposing to maintain and/or increase rates for certain separately ordered vertical services with respect to business customers¹. SWBT stated that although its filing correctly reflected the rates it intends to charge its business customers for these separately ordered vertical services, SWBT also intended to offer business customers an increased discount credit for ordering multiple vertical services via SWBT's BASICSsm package. Specifically, SWBT stated that it intended to offer its business customers a \$25.00 discount credit for ordering the BASICSsm package as opposed to the \$24.30 discount credit that is applicable today. The net effect, SWBT stated, of the increased discount credit is to maintain the same monthly rate of \$16.95 for business customers who order multiple vertical services via SWBT's BASICSsm package.

Thus, SWBT stated that it was requesting expedited treatment for its proposed revision so that the increased discount credit will be effective on the same date that SWBT anticipates its other tariff changes to become effective. SWBT stated that this expedited treatment will ensure that SWBT's business customers do not incur an increase in rates for multiple vertical services that are ordered as SWBT's BASICSsm package.

¹ This was filed as tariff number 200000888.

On April 20, 2000, the Commission entered its order granting expedited treatment and also ordered the Staff of the Commission (Staff) to file its recommendation.

On April 21, 2000, Staff filed its recommendation. Staff stated that it had reviewed the filing by SWBT and recommended the approval of the changes to SWBT's tariff sheets per the Staff memorandum attached to Staff's pleading as Appendix A. In Appendix A, Staff stated that the proposed tariff revisions increased the discount for business customers of the BASICSsm package. Staff stated that the BASICSsm package for business customers consisted of calling name and number caller ID service, call forwarding, remote access to call forwarding, call waiting, call waiting ID, plus a choice of one of the following services: three-way calling (monthly rate only), auto redial (monthly rate only), call blocker, selective call forwarding, call return (monthly rate only), and priority call.

Staff stated that the BASICSsm package is priced by taking the individually tariffed rates for the included components, and then applying the package's monthly discount. In the currently pending tariff file number 200000888, SWBT changed the rates for some of the services included in the BASICSsm package, increasing the rate for all of the above-named services except for priority call, which decreased. If the increases proposed in tariff file number 200000888 go into effect, the price of the individual components comprising the business BASICSsm package will be \$41.95 per month (or \$41.55 per month if priority call is chosen as an option). Staff stated that the proposed discount for the

business BASICSsm package is \$25.00, which increases from \$24.30 on the currently effective tariff page. Staff noted that the effect of the increased discount is to offset the increases that were made in the tariff file number 200000888. Staff pointed out that by letter dated April 20, 2000, the Commission advised SWBT that tariff file number 200000888 is being made effective in accordance with Section 392.220, RSMo, on May 1, 2000.

Thus, Staff stated, the result in this case is that a business BASICSsm customer's rate paid will remain the same (at \$16.95) or decrease by \$0.40 (to \$16.55), depending upon whether that customer chooses priority call as the additional BASICSsm feature.

Staff recommended the tariffs become effective on May 1, 2000.

No motions to suspend the tariff were filed, no applications to intervene were filed, and no party has requested a hearing. The requirement for a hearing is met when the opportunity for hearing 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). Since no one has requested a hearing, the Commission may grant the relief requested based on the application.

The Commission finds that good cause exists to approve the tariff on less than thirty (30) days' notice, that SWBT's tariff filing is reasonable, in the public interest, and that it should be approved.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the tariff sheets filed by Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, under Tariff Number 200000942, on April 13, 2000, are approved for service on and after May 1, 2000. The tariff sheets approved are:

Missouri General Exchange Tariff, P.S.C. Mo. No. 35, 1st Revised Sheet
8.01, Section 44, EasyOptions® Packages

2. That this order shall become effective on May 1, 2000.

3. That this case may be closed on May 2, 2000.

BY THE COMMISSION



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Lumpe, Ch., Murray, Schemenauer,
and Drainer, CC., concur
Crumpton, C., not participating

Hopkins, Senior Regulatory Law Judge