

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
JEFFERSON CITY
December 8, 1999**

CASE NO: TC-2000-56

Office of the Public Counsel
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Jefferson City, MO 65102

Legal Department
Southwestern Bell Telephone Company
One Bell Center
St Louis, MO 63101

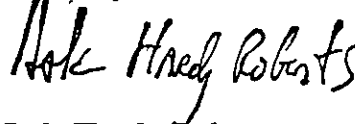
Tom Cupples
211 Sutters Mill Road
St. Peters, MO 63376

General Counsel
Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Jim Levin, Director
Center for Dispute Resolution
206 Hulston Hall
Columbia, MO 65211

Enclosed find certified copy of an ORDER in the above-numbered case(s).

Sincerely,



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

Uncertified Copy:

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

Tom Cupples,)	
)	
	Complainant,)
v.)	<u>Case No. TC-2000-56</u>
)	
Southwestern Bell Telephone Company,)	
)	
	Respondent.)

**ORDER SETTING PREHEARING CONFERENCE
AND REQUIRING FILING OF PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

On July 26, 1999, Tom Cupples filed a complaint with the Missouri Public Service Commission against Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBT) regarding a billing disagreement. The Commission issued its Notice of Complaint on August 20, 1999, providing 30 days for SWBT to file an answer, or, in the alternative, to file a request for mediation. On September 15, 1999, SWBT filed its Request for Mediation. On September 20, 1999, SWBT also filed its Motion to Dismiss and in the Alternative Answer of Southwestern Bell Telephone Company.

On September 23, 1999, the Commission issued its Notice Directing Response to Mediation Request. The Complainant did not file a response. On November 3, 1999, the University of Missouri-Columbia, Community Mediation Service filed a letter stating that their office was closing their mediation file for this case. On December 3, 1999, SWBT filed a Motion to Dismiss or in the Alternative to Set a Prehearing Conference.

Setting a prehearing conference and providing for a procedural schedule are appropriate at this time. The parties or their attorneys should appear in person at the prehearing conference. They should be prepared to discuss the nature of any discovery each will conduct and the time necessary to complete discovery and prepare for a hearing. The parties should be prepared to name all the witnesses each expects to call at hearing; the number and nature of any exhibits each expects to offer at hearing; and the anticipated length of the hearing.

The parties should also be prepared to discuss the current status of settlement negotiations. The prehearing conference will provide an opportunity for the parties to further pursue settlement discussions.

The parties shall be prepared to jointly file a proposed procedural schedule at the prehearing conference. The proposed procedural schedule shall establish dates for the close of discovery, the filing of a list of issues and the position statements of the parties, and the formal hearing for this case.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That a prehearing conference shall be held on December 30, 1999, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The prehearing conference shall be held at the Commission's offices on the fifth floor of the Harry S Truman State Office Building, 301 West High Street, Jefferson City, Missouri. Anyone wishing to attend who has special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the Missouri Public Service Commission at least ten (10) days before the prehearing

conference at: Consumer Services Hotline - 1-800-392-4211 or
TDD Hotline - 1-800-829-7541.

2. That this order shall become effective on December 8,
1999.

BY THE COMMISSION



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Keith Thornburg, 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 December, 1999.

**STATE OF MISSOURI
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and
I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson
City, Missouri, this 8th day of December 1999.

Dale Hardy Roberts

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

