

STATE OF MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

At a Session of the Public Service Commission held at its office in Jefferson City on the 16th day of March, 1999.

In the Matter of the Application of
Townes Telecommunications, Inc. for an
Order Authorizing Townes Telecommunications, Inc. to Purchase or Acquire,
Take or Hold All of the Issued and
Outstanding Capital Stock of Choctaw
Telephone Company, Inc.

ORDER SETTING ORAL ARGUMENT

On August 26, 1998, Townes Telecommunications, Inc. (Townes) filed its Application requesting the Commission's approval to acquire ownership of all outstanding stock of Choctaw Telephone Company, Inc. On December 15, Staff filed its Motion to Reject Application stating that Townes had failed to provide adequate responses to Staff Data Requests No. 7, 9, and 13. Staff further stated that these data requests are the same data as requested in other similar telecommunications sales transactions. Staff requested that the application be rejected or certain conditions be added to On December 18, Townes filed its Motion for approval of the sale. Approval of Application, Motion to Strike Motion to Reject Application, Suggestions in Support requesting that the Commission strike the Motion to Reject Application as untimely and approve Townes' application to acquire all of Choctaw's outstanding stock.

A prehearing conference was held on February 9, 1999. On February 26, 1999, Staff requested on behalf of the parties that a

short hearing be set for oral arguments on the issues. The parties agreed by telephone conference call that they were available for oral arguments on March 22, 1999.

The Commission would be served by oral arguments on the issues in this matter. Therefore, this matter shall be set for an onthe-record proceeding.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

- 1. That an on-the-record proceeding shall be convened on March 22, 1999 at 10:30 a.m. to hear argument on the pleadings pending before the Commission in this case. The argument will be held on the fifth floor of the Harry S Truman State Office Building, 301 West High Street, Jefferson City, Missouri. Any person with special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the Missouri Public Service Commission as soon as possible prior to the hearing at one of the following numbers: Consumer Services Hotline -- 1-800-392-4211, or TDD Hotline -- 1-800-829-7541.
- 2. That this order shall become effective on March 16, 1999.

BY THE COMMISSION

Hole Horey Roberts

Dale Hardy Roberts

Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(SEAL)

Lumpe, Ch., Crumpton, Murray, Schemenauer, and Drainer, CC., concur

Register, Regulatory Law Judge