BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

NW

OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of)	
Dakota Services Limited for Approval)	Case No. TO-99-564
of an Interconnection Agreement Under the)	
Telecommunications Act of 1996	1	

ORDER APPROVING INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT

Dakota Services Limited (Dakota) filed an Application with the Commission on May 19, 1999 for approval of an interconnection agreement under the provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act). The proposed interconnection agreement is between Dakota and Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBT). Although SWBT is a party to the interconnection agreement, it did not join in the Application. On May 21, the Commission issued an Order making SWBT a party in this case and directing any party wishing to request a hearing or participate without intervention to do so no later than June 10. No applications to participate or requests for hearing were filed. 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. ex rel. Rex Deffenderfer Enterprises, Inc. v. Public Service Commission, 776 S.W.2d 494, 496 (Mo. App. 1989). Since no one has asked permission to participate or requested a hearing in this case, the Commission may grant the relief requested based on the verified application.

Discussion

The Commission, under the provisions of Section 252(e) of the Act, has authority to approve an interconnection agreement negotiated between an incumbent local exchange company (LEC) and a new provider of basic local exchange service. The Commission may reject an interconnection agreement only if the agreement discriminates against non-parties or is inconsistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity.

On July 27, the Staff of the Public Service Commission (Staff) filed a Memorandum recommending that the Commission approve the submitted interconnection agreement. Staff stated in its recommendation that the Agreement meets the limited requirements of the Act in that it does not appear to discriminate against nonparties, and does not appear to be against the public interest.

The Commission has considered the application and the supporting documentation, including Staff's recommendation. Based upon that review, the Commission has reached the conclusion that the interconnection agreement meets the requirements of the Act in that it does not unduly discriminate against a nonparty carrier and implementation of the agreement is not inconsistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity. The Commission finds that approval of the agreement should be conditioned upon the parties submitting any modifications or amendments to the Commission for approval pursuant to the procedure set out below.

Modification Procedure

The Commission has a duty to review all resale and interconnection agreements, whether arrived at through negotiation or arbitration, as mandated by the Act. 47 U.S.C. 252. In order for the Commission's review and approval to be effective, the Commission must also review and approve modifications to these agreements. The Commission has a further duty to make a copy of every resale and interconnection agreement available for public inspection. 47 U.S.C. 252(h). This duty is in keeping with the Commission's practice under its own rules of requiring telecommunications companies to keep their rate schedules on file with the Commission. 4 CSR 240-30,010.

The parties to each resale or interconnection agreement must maintain a complete and current copy of the agreement, together with all modifications, in the Commission's offices. Any proposed modification must be submitted for Commission approval, whether the modification arises through negotiation, arbitration, or by means of alternative dispute resolution procedures.

The parties shall provide the Telecommunications Staff with a copy of the resale or interconnection agreement with the pages numbered consecutively in the lower right-hand corner. Modifications to an agreement must be submitted to the Staff for review. When approved the modified pages will be substituted in the agreement, which should contain the number of the page being replaced in the lower right-hand corner. Staff will date-stamp the pages when they are inserted into the

Agreement. The official record of the original agreement and all the modifications made will be maintained by the Telecommunications Staff in the Commission's tariff room.

The Commission does not intend to conduct a full proceeding each time the parties agree to a modification. Where a proposed modification is identical to a provision that has been approved by the Commission in another agreement, the modification will be approved once Staff has verified that the provision is an approved provision, and prepared a recommendation advising approval. Where a proposed modification is not contained in another approved agreement, Staff will review the modification and its effects and prepare a recommendation advising the Commission whether the modification should be approved. The Commission may approve the modification based on the Staff recommendation. If the Commission chooses not to approve the modification, the Commission will establish a case, give notice to interested parties and permit responses. The Commission may conduct a hearing if it is deemed necessary.

Conclusion

The Commission, under the provisions of Section 252(e)(1) of the Act, (47 U.S.C. 252(e)(1)), is required to review negotiated resale agreements. It may only reject a negotiated agreement upon a finding that its implementation would be discriminatory to a nonparty or inconsistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity under Section 252(e)(2)(A). Based upon its review of the interconnection agreement between Dakota and SWBT and its findings of fact, the

Commission concludes that the agreement is neither discriminatory nor inconsistent with the public interest and should be approved.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

- That the Interconnection Agreement between Dakota Services
 Limited and Southwestern Bell Telephone Company filed on May 19, 1999 is approved.
- 2. That Dakota Services Limited and Southwestern Bell Telephone Company shall file a copy of the agreement with the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, with the pages numbered seriatim in the lower right-hand corner no later than August 25, 1999. The parties shall file on the same date a notice in the official case file advising the Commission that the agreement has been submitted to Staff as required.
- 3. That any changes or modifications to this agreement shall be filed with the Commission for approval pursuant to the procedure outlined in this order.
 - 4. That this order shall become effective on August 15, 1999.

BY THE COMMISSION

Hole Hard Roberts

(SEAL)

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

Morris L. Woodruff, 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 5th day of August, 1999.

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