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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Business Telecom, Inc.)
d/b/a BTI's Application for Approval of)
Interconnection Agreement under the) Case No. TO-2000-636
Telecommunications Act of 1996 with)
Southwestern Bell Telephone Company)

ORDER DIRECTING NOTICE
AND MAKING SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY A PARTY

On April 11, 2000, Business Telecom, Inc., d/b/a BTI (BTI) filed an application with the Commission for approval of an interconnection agreement with Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (Southwestern Bell). BTI states that there are no unresolved issues and that the agreement complies with Section 252(e) of the Act because it is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity and does not discriminate against any telecommunications carrier. BTI 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. Section 252(e).

Although Southwestern Bell is a party to the agreement, it did not join in the application. The Commission will make Southwestern Bell 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 ninety 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 any party wishing to request a hearing or to participate without intervention in this matter shall file an application no later than May 4, 2000 with:

Secretary of the Missouri Public Service Commission
Post Office Box 360
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

and send copies to:

Mary Ann (Garr) Young
William D. Steinmeier, P.C.
2031 Tower Drive
P.O. Box 104595
Jefferson City, Missouri 65110-4595

and

Eric Branfman
Swidler Berlin Shereff Friedman, LLP
3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20007

ATTORNEYS FOR BTI

Legal Department
Southwestern Bell Telephone Company
One Bell Center, Room 3536
St. Louis, Missouri 63101-1976

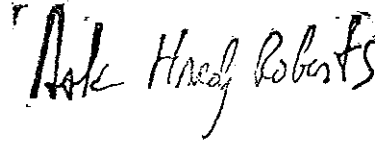
Office of the Public Counsel
Post Office Box 7800
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

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

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 June 20, 2000.

5. That this order shall become effective on April 24, 2000.

BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale Hardy Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized script.

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

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 14th day of April, 2000.