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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of AccuTel of)
Texas, Inc., for a Certificate of Service)
Authority to Provide Basic Local Telecommunica-) Case No. TA-2000-410
tions Service in Portions of the State of)
Missouri and to Classify Said Services and the)
Company as Competitive.)

ORDER GRANTING CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE
BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

Procedural History

AccuTel of Texas, Inc. (AccuTel), applied to the Commission on January 10, 2000, for a certificate of service authority to provide basic local exchange telecommunications service in Missouri under Chapter 392 of the Missouri Revised Statutes. AccuTel asked the Commission to classify it as a competitive company and waive certain statutes and rules as authorized by Section 392.420, RSMo. AccuTel is a Texas corporation with principal offices located at 7900 John W. Carpenter Freeway, Dallas, Texas 75237.

The Commission issued a notice and schedule of applicants on January 11, 2000, directing interested parties wishing to intervene to do so by February 10, 2000. The Commission granted permission to intervene to Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBT) on February 25, 2000.

On March 28, 2000, the parties filed a Stipulation and Agreement (Agreement), which is included with this order as Attach-

ment 1. The Agreement states that the Office of the Public Counsel, while not a signatory to the Agreement, has been contacted with regard to the filing and has offered no objections. The Agreement will be treated as unanimous. Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.115(1) states in part: "If no party requests a hearing, the commission will treat the stipulation and agreement as a unanimous stipulation and agreement."

The Staff of the Commission (Staff) filed suggestions in support of the Agreement on March 29, 2000. In the Agreement, the parties waived their rights to present testimony, cross-examine witnesses, present oral argument or briefs, and to seek rehearing or judicial review. 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 in this case, the Commission may grant the relief requested based on the application.

Discussion

AccuTel proposes to provide resold basic local exchange services as a separate and distinct service, throughout all Missouri exchanges currently served by SWBT, Sprint Missouri, Inc., d/b/a Sprint (Sprint), and GTE Midwest Incorporated (GTE). The specific exchanges in which AccuTel proposes to operate are listed in the incumbent providers' respective local exchange tariffs. AccuTel is not asking for certification in any area that is served by a small incumbent local exchange provider. AccuTel is requesting that its

) basic local services be classified as competitive and that the application of certain statutes and regulatory rules be waived.

A. Requirements of 4 CSR 240-2.060(4)

) Commission rule 4 CSR 240-2.060(4) requires a foreign corporation applying for certification to provide telecommunications services to include in its application a certificate from the Secretary of State showing it is authorized to do business in Missouri, a description of the types of services it intends to provide, a description of the exchanges where it will offer service, and a proposed tariff with a 45-day effective date. AccuTel has provided all the required documentation except for the proposed tariff. In the application, the company requested a temporary waiver of 4 CSR 240-2.060(4)(H) until it has entered into an interconnection agreement with one of the underlying local exchange carriers and that agreement has been approved by the Commission. The company agreed to submit to the Commission for approval a proposed tariff with a minimum 45-day effective date once it is party to the appropriate interconnection agreement. The Stipulation and Agreement provides that AccuTel will file the tariff in this case and give notice of the tariff filing to all the parties. Along with that filing, AccuTel has agreed to provide a written disclosure of all interconnection agreements it has entered into which affect its Missouri service areas. However, the Commission has found that holding open the certificate case until a tariff is filed may result in the case being left open without any activity for an extended period. Therefore, this case will be closed and when AccuTel files the required tariff, it will be

assigned a new case number. AccuTel will be directed to provide the notice and disclosures required by the Stipulation and Agreement when it files its proposed tariff.

B. Basic Local Service Certification

Section 392.455, RSMo Supp. 1998, sets out the requirements for granting certificates to provide basic local telecommunications service to new entrants. A new entrant must: (1) possess sufficient technical, financial and managerial resources and abilities to provide basic local telecommunications service; (2) demonstrate that the services it proposes to offer satisfy the minimum standards established by the Commission; (3) set forth the geographic area in which it proposes to offer service and demonstrate that such area follows exchange boundaries of the incumbent local exchange telecommunications company and is no smaller than an exchange; and (4) offer basic local telecommunications service as a separate and distinct service. In addition, the Commission must give due consideration to equitable access for all Missourians to affordable telecommunications services, regardless of where they live or their income.

AccuTel submitted as late-filed Exhibit 3 to its application the following highly confidential financial documents: profit and loss statements for 1997, 1998, and January through April 1999; and balance sheets for 1997, 1998, and 1999 (through April only). Exhibit 2 to the application lists the names and qualifications of the applicant's management team. The parties agreed that AccuTel possesses sufficient technical, financial and managerial resources and abilities to provide basic local telecommunications service.

AccuTel has agreed to provide services that meet the minimum basic local service standards required by the Commission, including quality of service and billing standards. The parties agreed that AccuTel proposes to offer basic local services that satisfy the minimum standards established by the Commission.

AccuTel wishes to be certificated to offer services in all the exchanges presently served by SWBT, Sprint, and GTE as described in the basic local exchange tariffs of those companies. The parties agreed that AccuTel has sufficiently identified the geographic area in which it proposes to offer basic local service and that the area follows the incumbent local exchange carrier's exchange boundaries and is no smaller than an exchange.

AccuTel has agreed to offer basic local telecommunications service as a separate and distinct service and to provide equitable access, as determined by the Commission, for all Missourians within the geographic area in which it will offer basic local services in compliance with Section 392.455(5), RSMo Supp. 1999.

C. Competitive Classification

The Commission may classify a telecommunications provider as a competitive company if the Commission determines it is subject to sufficient competition to justify a lesser degree of regulation. Section 392.361.2. In making that determination, the Commission may consider such factors as market share, financial resources, and name recognition, among others. In the Matter of the Investigation for the Purpose of Determining the Classification of the Services Provided by Interexchange Telecommunications Companies Within the State of

Missouri, 30 Mo. P.S.C. (N.S.) 16 (1989); In the Matter of Southwestern Bell Telephone Company's Application for Classification of Certain Services as Transitionally Competitive, 1 Mo. P.S.C. 3d 479, 484 (1992). The Commission has found that whether a service is competitive is a subject for case-by-case examination and that different criteria may be given greater weight depending upon the service being considered. *Supra*, 1 Mo. P.S.C. 3d at 487. In addition, all the services a competitive company provides must be classified as competitive. Section 392.361.3, RSMo.

The parties have agreed that AccuTel should be classified as a competitive telecommunications company. The parties have also agreed that the applicant's switched exchange access services may be classified as a competitive service, conditioned upon certain limitations on the applicant's ability to charge for its access services. AccuTel has agreed that, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission, its originating and terminating access rates will be no greater than the lowest Commission-approved corresponding access rates in effect for the large ILEC within whose service area AccuTel seeks authority to provide service. However, the parties acknowledged that the Commission is currently examining, in Case No. TO-99-596, the extent to which competitive LEC (CLEC) switched access rates should be regulated. AccuTel indicated that it will comply with any applicable Commission order regarding intrastate CLEC switched access rates, and the parties acknowledged that AccuTel can comply with any such order notwithstanding any contrary terms contained in the Agreement. The parties have agreed that the grant of service authority and

competitive classification to AccuTel should be expressly conditioned on the continued applicability of Section 392.200, RSMo Supp. 1999, and on the requirement that any increases in switched access services rates above the maximum switched access service rates set forth herein shall be cost-justified and shall be made pursuant to Sections 392.220, RSMo Supp. 1999, and 392.230, and not Sections 392.500 and 392.510.

The parties have agreed that waiver of the following statutes is appropriate: Sections 392.210.2, 392.270, 392.280, 392.290.1, 392.300.2, 392.310, 392.320, 392.330, and 392.340, RSMo. AccuTel also requests waiver of the following Commission rules: 4 CSR 240-10.020, 4 CSR 240-30.040, and 4 CSR 240-35.

Findings of Fact

The Missouri Public Service Commission, having considered all of the competent and substantial evidence upon the whole record, makes the following findings of fact:

- A. The Commission finds that competition in the basic local exchange telecommunications markets is in the public interest.
- B. The Commission finds that AccuTel has met the requirements of 4 CSR 240-2.060(4) for applicants for certificates of service authority to provide telecommunications services with the exception of the filing of a tariff with a 45-day effective date.

- C. The Commission finds that AccuTel has demonstrated good cause to support a temporary waiver of the tariff filing requirement and the waiver shall be granted.
- D. The Commission finds that AccuTel meets the statutory requirements for provision of basic local telecommunications services and indicates it will abide by those requirements in the future. The Commission determines that granting AccuTel a certificate of service authority to provide basic local telecommunications services is in the public interest. The certificate of AccuTel shall become effective when its tariff becomes effective.
- E. The Commission finds that AccuTel is a competitive company and should be granted waiver of the statutes and rules set out in the ordered paragraph below.
- F. The Commission finds that certification and competitive status of AccuTel should be expressly conditioned on the requirement that, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission, if AccuTel provides access services, its originating and terminating intrastate access rates will be no greater than the lowest Commission-approved corresponding access rates in effect for the large incumbent local exchange company for each service area within which AccuTel seeks authority to provide service.
- G. The Commission finds that the certification and competitive status of AccuTel should be expressly conditioned upon the continued applicability of Sec-

tion 392.200, RSMo Supp. 1999, and on the requirement that any increases in switched access rates above the maximum switched access service rates set forth herein shall be cost-justified and shall be made pursuant to Sections 392.200, RSMo Supp. 1999, and 392.230, RSMo 1994, rather than Sections 392.500 and 392.510, RSMo 1994.

Conclusions of Law

The Missouri Public Service Commission has reached the following conclusions of law:

The Commission has the authority to grant certificates of service authority to provide telecommunications service within the state of Missouri. AccuTel has requested certification under Sections 392.420 - .440, and Sections 392.410 and 392.450, RSMo Supp. 1999, which permit the Commission to grant a certificate of service authority where it is in the public interest. Sections 392.361 and 392.420 authorize the Commission to modify or suspend the application of its rules and certain statutory provisions for companies classified as competitive or transitionally competitive.

The federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 and Section 392.455, RSMo Supp. 1999, were designed to institute competition in the basic local exchange telecommunications market in order to benefit all telecommunications consumers. See Section 392.185, RSMo Supp. 1999.

Based upon the Commission's review of the applicable law and upon its findings of fact, the Commission concludes that certificate and competitive classification requested by AccuTel should be granted.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the Stipulation and Agreement of the parties, filed on January 10, 2000, is approved.

2. That AccuTel of Texas, Inc., is granted a certificate of service authority to provide basic local exchange telecommunications services in the state of Missouri, subject to the conditions of certification set out above and to all applicable statutes and Commission rules except as specified in this order. The certificate of service authority shall become effective when the company's tariff becomes effective.

3. That AccuTel of Texas, Inc., is classified as a competitive telecommunications company. Application of the following statutes and regulatory rules shall be waived:

Statutes

- 392.210.2 - uniform system of accounts
- 392.270 - valuation of property (ratemaking)
- 392.280 - depreciation accounts
- 392.290.1 - issuance of securities
- 392.300.2 - acquisition of stock
- 392.310 - stock and debt issuance
- 392.320 - stock dividend payment
- 392.330 - issuance of securities, debts and notes
- 392.340 - reorganization(s)

Commission Rules

- 4 CSR 240-10.020 - depreciation fund income
- 4 CSR 240-30.040 - uniform system of accounts
- 4 CSR 240-35 - reporting of bypass and customer-specific arrangements

4. That the request for waiver of 4 CSR 240-2.060(4)(H), which requires the filing of a 45-day tariff, is granted.

5. That AccuTel of Texas, Inc., shall file tariff sheets with a minimum 45-day effective date reflecting the rates, rules, regulations and the services it will offer within 30 days after the effective date of a Commission order approving an interconnection agreement that will allow it provide services. The tariff shall include a listing of the statutes and Commission rules waived above. That AccuTel of Texas, Inc., shall give notice of the filing of the tariffs described above to all parties or participants in this case. In addition, AccuTel of Texas, Inc., shall file a written disclosure of all interconnection agreements which affect its Missouri service areas, all portions of Missouri service areas for which it does not have an interconnection agreement, and an explanation of why no interconnection agreement is necessary for those areas.

6. That unless otherwise ordered by the Commission, AccuTel of Texas, Inc.'s (AccuTel) certification and competitive status are conditioned upon its rates for originating and terminating access being no greater than the lowest Commission-approved corresponding access rates in effect for the large incumbent local exchange company within whose service areas AccuTel seeks authority to provide service.

7. That AccuTel of Texas, Inc.'s certification and competitive status are expressly conditioned upon the continued applicability of Section 392.200, RSMo Supp. 1998, and on the requirement that any increases in switched access rates set forth herein shall be made pursuant to Sections 392.200, RSMo Supp. 1998, and 392.230, RSMo 1994, rather than Sections 392.500 and 392.510, RSMo 1999.

8. That this order shall become effective on May 9, 2000.
9. That this case may be closed on May 10, 2000.

BY THE COMMISSION



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Vicky Ruth, 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 27th day of April, 2000.

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF MISSOURI

FILED²

MAR 28 2000

Missouri Public
Service Commission

In the matter of the Application of)
AccuTel of Texas, Inc., for Certificate)
of Service Authority to Provide Basic Local)
Telecommunications Service in)
Portions of the State of Missouri and)
to Classify Said Services as Competitive.)

Case No. TA-2000-410

STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT

AccuTel of Texas, Inc. (Applicant or AccuTel) initiated this proceeding on January 10, 2000, by filing an Application requesting certificate of service authority to provide basic local telecommunications services in those portions of Missouri that are currently served by Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBT), GTE Midwest, Incorporated (GTE) and Sprint Missouri, Inc. d/b/a Sprint (Sprint).

The Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) has granted the timely application to intervene of Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBT).

A. Standards and Criteria

1. For purposes of this Stipulation and Agreement, the parties agree that applications for local exchange and basic local exchange service authority in exchanges served by "large" local exchange companies (LECs)¹ should be processed in a manner similar to that in which applications for interexchange authority are currently handled.

2. In determining whether AccuTel's application for certificate of service authority should be granted, the Commission should consider AccuTel's technical, financial and managerial resources and abilities to provide basic local telecommunications service. AccuTel must demonstrate

¹Large LECs are defined as LECs who serve 100,000 or more access lines §386.020 RSMo. Supp. 1998. In Missouri, the current large LECs are SWBT, GTE and Sprint.

that the basic local services it proposes to offer satisfy the minimum standards established by the Commission, including but not limited to the filing and maintenance of basic local service tariffs with the Commission in the same manner and form as the Commission requires of incumbent local exchange telecommunications companies (ILECs) with which applicant seeks to compete. Further, AccuTel agrees to meet the minimum basic local service standards, including quality of service and billing standards, as the Commission requires of the ILECs with which applicant seeks to compete. Notwithstanding the provisions of §392.500 RSMo. (1994), as a condition of certification and competitive classification, AccuTel agrees that, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission, AccuTel's originating and terminating access rates will be no greater than the lowest Commission approved corresponding access rates in effect for the large ILEC(s) within whose service areas AccuTel seeks authority to provide service. Further, AccuTel agrees to offer basic local telecommunications service as a separate and distinct service and has sufficiently identified the geographic service area in which it proposes to offer basic local service. Such area follows exchange boundaries of the ILECs in the same area and is no smaller than an exchange. Finally, AccuTel agrees to provide equitable access to affordable telecommunications services, as determined by the Commission, for all Missourians within the geographic area in which it proposes to offer basic local service, regardless of residence or income. See §392.455 RSMo. Supp. 1998.

3. The parties acknowledge that the Commission is currently examining the extent to which competitive LEC (CLEC) switched access rates should be regulated in Case No. TO-99-596. AccuTel will comply with any applicable Commission order regarding intrastate CLEC switched access rates, and the parties acknowledge that AccuTel can comply with any such order notwithstanding any contrary terms contained in this Stipulation.

4. AccuTel submitted its application without a tariff and seeks a temporary waiver of 4 CSR 240-2.060(4)(H). AccuTel agrees to file its initial tariff in this certification docket and serve all parties thereto with written notice at the time the initial tariff is submitted to afford them an opportunity to participate in the tariff approval process. Copies of the tariff will be provided by Applicant to such parties immediately upon request. Any service authority shall be regarded as conditional and shall not be exercised until such time as a tariff for service has become effective. When filing its initial basic local tariff, AccuTel shall also file and serve a written disclosure of all resale and/or interconnection agreements which affect its Missouri service areas, all portions of its Missouri service areas for which it does not have a resale and/or interconnection agreement with the incumbent local exchange carrier, and its explanation of why such a resale and/or interconnection agreement is unnecessary for such areas.

5. AccuTel has, pursuant to §392.420 RSMo., requested that the Commission waive the application of the following statutory provisions and rules to its basic local telecommunications services, and the parties agree that the Commission should grant such request provided that §392.200 RSMo. should continue to apply to all of AccuTel's services:

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

- §392.210.2
- §392.270
- §392.280
- §392.290.1
- §392.300.2
- §392.310
- §392.320
- §392.330
- §392.340

COMMISSION RULES

- 4 CSR 240-10.020
- 4 CSR 240-30.040
- 4 CSR 240-35

6. In negotiating the remaining provisions of this Stipulation and Agreement, the parties employed the foregoing standards and criteria, which are intended to meet the requirements of existing law and §§392.450 and 392.455 RSMo. regarding applications for certificates of local exchange service authority to provide basic local telecommunications service

B. AccuTel Certification

7. AccuTel hereby agrees that its application should be deemed amended to include by reference the terms and provisions described in paragraphs 2-5 above.

8. Based upon its verified Application, as amended by this Stipulation and Agreement, AccuTel asserts, and no party makes a contrary assertion, that there is sufficient evidence from which the Commission can find and conclude that AccuTel:

- A. possesses sufficient technical, financial and managerial resources and abilities to provide basic local telecommunications service telecommunications service, including exchange access service;
- B. proposes and agrees to offer basic local services that satisfy the minimum standards established by the Commission;
- C. has sufficiently identified the geographic area in which it proposes to offer basic local service and such area follows exchange boundaries of the incumbent local exchange telecommunications companies in the same areas, and such area is no smaller than an exchange;
- D. will offer basic local telecommunications service as a separate and distinct service;
- E. has agreed to provide equitable access to affordable telecommunications services, as determined by the Commission, for all Missourians within the geographic area in which it proposes to offer basic local service, regardless of where they live or their income; and
- F. has sought authority which will serve the public interest.

9. AccuTel asserts, and no party opposes, that AccuTel's application and request for authority to provide basic local telecommunications services should be granted. All services authorized herein should be classified as competitive telecommunications services provided that the requirements of §392.200 RSMo. continue to apply, and AccuTel shall remain classified as a competitive telecommunications company. AccuTel asserts, and no party opposes, that such services will be subject to sufficient competition by the services of the ILECs to justify a lesser degree of regulation of AccuTel's services consistent with the protection of ratepayers and the promotion of the public interest. Such classification should become effective upon the tariffs for the services becoming effective. Such authority should be conditional, not to be exercised until such time as tariffs for those services have been filed (together with the written disclosure as stipulated above) and have become effective. The Commission's Order should state the foregoing conditions substantially as follows:

The service authority and service classification herein granted are subject to the requirements of §392.200 RSMo. and are conditional and shall not be exercised until such time as tariffs for services have become effective.

The parties agree that AccuTel's switched exchange access services may be classified as competitive services. The parties further agree that Applicant's intrastate switched exchange access services are subject to §392.200 RSMo. Any increases in intrastate switched access service rates above the maximum switched access service rates as set forth in paragraph 2 herein shall be cost justified and shall be made pursuant to §§392.220 and 392.230 RSMo. and not §§392.500 and 392.510 RSMo.

The Commission's Order should state the foregoing conditions substantially as follows:

The service authority and service classification for switched exchange access granted herein is expressly conditioned on the continued applicability of §392.200 RSMo. and the requirement that any increases in switched access service rates above the maximum switched access service rates set forth herein shall be cost justified and shall

be made pursuant to §392.220 and 392.230 RSMo. and not §392.500 and 392.510 RSMo.

10. AccuTel's request for a temporary waiver of 4 CSR 240-2.060(4)(H), which requires applications to include a proposed tariff with a 45-day effective date, is not opposed by the parties and should be granted because AccuTel does not yet have approved resale and/or interconnection agreements with the large ILECs. AccuTel agrees that at such time as all facts necessary for the development of tariffs become known, it will submit tariffs in this docket, with a minimum 45-day proposed effective date, to the Commission for its approval, together with the written disclosure as stipulated above. AccuTel shall serve notice to all parties and participants in this docket of the filing of its tariffs at the time they are filed with the Commission and serve them with the aforesaid written disclosure and shall upon request immediately provide any party with a copy of those tariffs. The Commission's Order should state these obligations as conditions to the waiver of 4 CSR 240-2.060(4)(H), substantially as follows:

Applicant's request for temporary waiver of 4 CSR 240-2.060(4)(H) is hereby granted for good cause in that applicant does not yet have approved any resale and/or interconnection agreement with the incumbent local exchange carrier within whose service areas it seeks authority to provide service; provided, when applicant submits its tariffs in this docket to the Commission, such tariffs shall have a minimum of a 45-day effective date and the applicant shall serve written notice upon the parties hereto of such submittal, and shall provide copies of such tariffs to such parties immediately upon request. When filing its initial basic local tariff in this docket, the applicant shall also file and serve upon the parties hereto a written disclosure of: all resale and/or interconnection agreements which affect its Missouri service areas; all portions of its Missouri service areas for which it does not have a resale and/or interconnection agreement with the incumbent local exchange carrier; and its explanation of why such a resale and/or interconnection agreement is unnecessary for any such areas.

11. AccuTel's request for waiver of the application of the following rules and statutory provisions as they relate to the regulation of AccuTel's services should be granted:

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

COMMISSION RULES

§392.210.2
§392.270
§392.280
§392.290.1
§392.300.2
§392.310
§392.320
§392.330
§392.340

4 CSR 240-10.020
4 CSR 240-30.040
4 CSR 240-35

12. This Stipulation and Agreement has resulted from extensive negotiations among the signatories and the terms hereof are interdependent. In the event the Commission does not adopt this Stipulation in total, then this Stipulation and Agreement shall be void and no signatory shall be bound by any of the agreements or provisions hereof. The Stipulations herein are specific to the resolution of this proceeding and are made without prejudice to the rights of the signatories to take other positions in other proceedings.

13. In the event the Commission accepts the specific terms of this Stipulation and Agreement, the parties and participants waive, with respect to the issues resolved herein: their respective rights pursuant to §536.070(2) and §536.080.1 RSMo. 1994, to present testimony, to cross examine witnesses, and to present oral argument or written briefs; their respective rights to the reading of the transcript by the Commission pursuant to §536.080.2 RSMo. 1994; and their respective rights to seek rehearing pursuant to §386.500 RSMo. 1994 and to seek judicial review pursuant to §386.510 RSMo. 1994. The parties agree to cooperate with the Applicant and with each other in presenting this Stipulation and Agreement for approval to the Commission and shall take no action, direct or indirect, in opposition to the request for approval of the AccuTel application made herein.

14. The Staff may submit a Staff Recommendation concerning matters not addressed in this Stipulation. In addition, if requested by the Commission, the Staff shall have the right to submit to the Commission a memorandum explaining its rationale for entering into this Stipulation and Agreement. Each party of record and participant herein shall be served with a copy of any memorandum and shall be entitled to submit to the Commission, within five (5) days of receipt of Staff's memorandum, a responsive memorandum which shall also be served on all parties and participants. All memoranda submitted by the parties shall be considered privileged in the same manner as settlement discussions under the Commission's rules, shall be maintained on a confidential basis by all parties and participants, and shall not become a part of the record of this proceeding or bind or prejudice the party submitting such memorandum in any future proceeding or in this proceeding whether or not the Commission approves this Stipulation and Agreement. The contents of any memorandum provided by any party are its own and are not acquiesced in or otherwise adopted by the other signatories to the Stipulation and Agreement, whether or not the Commission approves and adopts this Stipulation and Agreement.

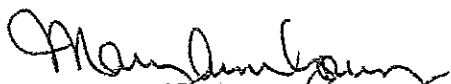
The Staff shall also have the right to provide, at any agenda meeting at which this Stipulation and Agreement is noticed to be considered by the Commission, whatever oral explanation the Commission requests, provided that the Staff shall, to the extent reasonably practicable, provide the other parties and participants with advance notice of when the Staff shall respond to the Commission's request for such explanation once such explanation is requested from Staff. Staff's oral explanation shall be subject to public disclosure.

15. The Office of Public Counsel, while not a signatory to this Stipulation and Agreement, has been contacted with regard to its filing and has offered no objection.

16. Finally, AccuTel will comply with all applicable Commission rules and regulations except those which are specifically waived by the Commission.

WHEREFORE, the signatories respectfully request the Commission to issue its Order approving the terms of this Stipulation and Agreement and issue its Order granting authority and classification as requested by AccuTel, subject to the conditions described above, at its earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

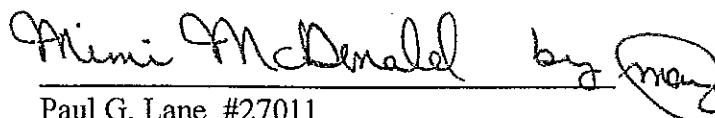


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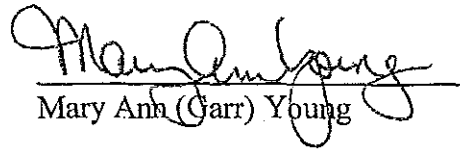
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Fax: 573-751-9285

FOR: Staff of the Missouri
Public Service Commission

Dated: March 28, 2000

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of this document has been hand delivered or mailed by first class mail, postage prepaid, to the parties of record listed below, on this 28th day of March 2000.


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