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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of Missouri)
State Discount Telephone for a Certificate of)
Authority to Provide Basic Local)
Telecommunications Service and Long Distance) Case No. TA-2000-204
Service in the State of Missouri and to Classify)
Said Services and Missouri Discount Telephone)
as Competitive.)

ORDER GRANTING APPLICATION TO INTERVENE OUT OF TIME

On November 8, 1999, the Mid-Missouri Group of Local Exchange Companies, Alma, Chariton Valley, Choctaw, Mid-Missouri, Modern, MoKan Dial and Northeast Missouri Rural (MMG) filed an Application to Intervene. The Commission has reviewed MMG's application to intervene and finds that it is in compliance with Commission rule 4 CSR 240-2.075(4). As an association of small incumbent local exchange carriers, MMG has an interest in this matter that is different from that of the general public. Granting the proposed intervention would serve the public interest.

MMG's application to intervene was filed more than three weeks after the Commission imposed October 14 deadline for intervention. MMG recognized that its application is not timely and, also on November 8, filed an Application to Intervene Out of Time.

4 CSR 240-2.075(4)(D) provides that a late application to intervene may be granted by the Commission upon a showing of good cause.

MMG's Application to Intervene Out of Time indicates that it did not request to intervene sooner because it did not immediately realize that Missouri State Discount Telephone was requesting authorization to operate in exchanges of companies other than Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, Sprint and GTE. Under some circumstances the failure of an applicant to discern the true nature of another party's application might not be a sufficient basis for allowing an intervention out of time. However, no party has opposed MMG's application for intervention and this case has not yet progressed to a stage at which any party would be prejudiced by the addition of MMG as a party. The Commission concludes that good cause for acceptance of MMG's application to intervene out of time has been shown. The application to intervene filed by MMG should be granted.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the Application to Intervene of the Mid-Missouri Group of Local Exchange Companies, Alma, Chariton Valley, Choctaw, Mid-Missouri, Modern, MoKan Dial, and Northeast Missouri Rural is granted.

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

BY THE COMMISSION



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 22nd day of November, 1999.