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## STATE OF MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

At a Session of the Public Service Commission held at its office in Jefferson City on the 19th day of August, 1994.

In the matter of the restructuring ) of transport rates of local exchange ) Case No. TO-94-374 telecommunications companies.

## ORDER REJECTING MOTION TO FILE NOTICE OF PARTICIPATION OUT OF TIME AND REJECTING COMMENTS OUT OF TIME

On July 1, 1994, the Commission issued an Order Establishing Docket, Comment Dates and Technical Conferences herein (the July 1 Order). On July 15, 1994, the Commission issued its Order Modifying Procedural Schedule in which it extended the dates for initial Comments and all of the dates which occur thereafter (the July 15 Order).

Subsequently, the Commission has received two (2) separate filings in this case which are both out of time and both of which were filed by individuals which are not licensed to practice law in the state of Missouri. On August 12, 1994, the Interexchange Access Coalition (IAC) filed a Motion to File a Notice of Participation Out of Time and accompanying that IAC filed a proposed Notice of Participation. On August 15, 1994, the Competitive Telecommunications Association of Missouri (CompTel) attempted to file Comments in this Docket. CompTel's Comments were not timely filed nor has CompTel filed the required Notice of Participation as required by the July 1, 1994 Order.

The Missouri Supreme Court has ruled that although a natural person may represent himself or herself in a situation which, if done for someone else, would constitute the practice of law, a corporation is a creature of statute rather than a natural person and may not represent itself in legal

matters but must act solely through a licensed attorney. Reed v. Labor and Indus. Relations Com'n, 789 S.W.2d 19 (Mo.banc 1990). This Docket was established to allow for a full discussion of the issues involved in local transport restructuring and the participants herein may well be permitted to submit Comments without the benefit of legal counsel. However, prior to becoming a participant the order establishing this docket stated that ". . . interested persons will be required to file a pleading indicating their intent to participate." (The July 1 Order, page 2.) Pleadings which shall be filed in this or any other docket before the Commission, as well as any representation at a hearing, may only be accomplished by an attorney who is licensed to practice law in the state of Missouri. This is the established rule of law in this state and is restated in the Commission Rules. See 4 CSR 240-2.040.

The Commission finds that it may not accept IAC's Motion to File a Notice of Participation Out of Time or the Notice of Participation, both of which are pleadings and both of which were filed by an individual who is not licensed to practice law in the state of Missouri. The Commission finds that both of the pleadings filed by IAC must be rejected.

The Commission also finds that it may not accept the Comments of CompTel as CompTel has failed to file a Notice of Participation as required in this Docket. Additionally, if arguendo CompTel were a participant herein, CompTel's comments were attempted to be filed out of time. The Commission finds that CompTel's comments must be rejected.

Lastly, the Commission finds that this Docket was established with a specific timetable and one which has already been extended at the request of the participants. The Commission finds that any further delays would not be in the public interest. However, the Commission finds that this order should not be read to prevent a participant from being added to this

docket upon a properly filed pleading showing good cause for late participation. And, any participant permitted to join this docket shall be bound by the procedural schedule established by the July 15 order.

## IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

- 1. That the Motion to File a Notice of Participation Out of Time and the Notice of Participation as filed by the Interexchange Access Coalition are hereby rejected.
- 2. That the Comments attempted to be filed by Competitive Telecommunications Association of Missouri are hereby rejected.
  - 3. That this order shall become effective on the date hereof.

BY THE COMMISSION

David L. Rauch Executive Secretary

(SEAL)

Mueller, Chm., McClure, Kincheloe and Crumpton, CC., Concur. Perkins, C., Absent.