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Case No. TA-2000-484

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in Missouri. SWBT states that Essential.com's telecommunications services will be offered in direct competition with SWBT if Essential.com's application is granted. SWBT also states that it has a direct interest in the Commission's decision on Essential.com's application, but that SWBT does not have sufficient information either to support or oppose Essential.com's application. SWBT further states that its interests as a provider of basic local exchange telecommunications service differ from those of the general public so that no other party can adequately protect SWBT's interest. SWBT states that its intervention is in the public interest because SWBT will bring its extensive expertise and experience as a telecommunications provider.

The Commission has reviewed the application of SWBT and finds that it is in substantial compliance with Commission rules regarding intervention (i.e., Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.075) and that SWBT has an interest in this matter that is different from that of the general public. The Commission concludes that this request for intervention should be granted and that the parties should file a proposed procedural schedule. The procedural schedule shall include dates for the filing of testimony and for a hearing. If no party requests a hearing, the Commission may grant the service authority and competitive classification requested without a hearing. State ex rel. Rex Deffenderfer Enterprises, Inc. v. Public Service Commission, 776 S.W.2d 494, 496 (Mo. App. 1989).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That Southwestern Bell Telephone Company is granted intervention in this case in accordance with Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.075(4).

2. That the parties shall file a proposed procedural schedule no later than April 19, 2000. The procedural schedule shall include dates for the filing of testimony and for a hearing.

3. That this order shall become effective on March 30, 2000.

BY THE COMMISSION



**Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge**

(S E A L)

Bill Hopkins, Senior 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 20th day of March, 2000.