STATE OF MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION JEFFERSON CITY

January 27, 1998

CASE NO: TO-94-184

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Enclosed find certified copy of ORDER in the above-numbered case(s).

Sincerely.

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

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Uncertified Copy:

Gary Pace, World Communications, Inc., 11656 Lilburn Park Road, St. Louis, MO 63146 W. R. England, III, Brydon, Swearengen & England, P.O. Box 456, 312 E. Capitol, Jefferson City, MO 65102

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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 27th day of January, 1998.

In the Matter of the Investigation into)
Southwestern Bell Telephone Company's)
CASE NO. TO-94-184
Affiliate Transactions.

ORDER CLOSING CASE

On December 17, 1993, the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) issued its Report and Order in Case Nos. TC-93-224 and TO-93-192, involving, respectively, a complaint by the Staff of the Commission (Staff) against Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBT), and a proposal to establish an alternate regulation plan for SWBT. As part of its decision, the Commission established Case No. TO-94-184 to investigate SWBT's affiliate transactions. The purpose of the case was to review whether SWBT's procedures for affiliate transactions were adequate, and to establish a method of reviewing SWBT's affiliate transactions within a rate case format to see if SWBT was following the approved procedures.

A Stipulation and Agreement (Stipulation) was filed on February 16, 1995. On April 11, 1995, the Commission issued its Order Approving Stipulation and Agreement. The Stipulation contained twelve pre-audit procedures which would allow the parties access to information concerning SWBT's affiliate transactions. The parties agreed to a pre-audit conference in June 1997 to begin utilization of the procedures, but stated that no audit of affiliate transactions would occur in 1997. In approving the Stipulation, the Commission noted that while Federal Communication Commission (FCC) rules on affiliate transactions could provide basic

safeguards, supplementary additional safeguards might be necessary. The Commission also found that any additional standards might be of general applicability and might have to be applied to all local exchange companies.

On October 24, 1997, SWBT, Staff, and the Office of the Public Counsel (OPC) filed a document entitled "Report on Affiliate Transaction Meeting." The parties indicated that, pursuant to the Stipulation, the parties held a conference in St. Louis on September 25-26, 1997, to discuss the twelve procedures contained in the Stipulation. The report discusses the completion of the twelve procedures, as well as the results of a review of those procedures. The report states that SWBT has demonstrated that it maintained sufficient audit trails for sales to and purchases from affiliates. All sales and purchase transactions with affiliates are supported by written contracts which provide the basis for continued oversight and define the relationship, including pricing, between SWBT and the affiliate. The report also indicates that SWBT agreed to file certain documents with the Commission on an annual basis as public Based upon compliance with the terms of the February 1995 Stipulation, the parties recommend that the Commission close this docket.

The Commission has reviewed this case and the parties' report, and finds that this case should be closed as recommended by the parties. The report addresses the concerns set forth in the Stipulation, and resolves SWBT-specific questions regarding affiliate transactions. The Commission also notes that it currently has a case open, Case No. TO-96-328, to address the general need for an affiliate transaction rule for telecommunications companies.

The pre-audit conference was delayed until September of 1997 as the result of unanticipated scheduling conflicts involving personnel from Staff and SWBT.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

- 1. That Case No. TO-94-184 is now closed.
- 2. That this order shall become effective on February 6, 1998.

BY THE COMMISSION

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(SEAL)

Lumpe, Ch., Crumpton, Murray, and Drainer, CC., Concur.

Bensavage, Regulatory Law Judge

ALL/Sec'y: Burning Guidgi

1-20-98 TO-94-184

Date Circulated CASE NO.

Crumpton, Commissioner

Murray, Commissioner

Commissioner

Drainer, Vice-Chair

1-27-98

Agenda Date

Action taken: 4-CAS

Must Vote Not Later Than

STATE OF MISSOURI OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and
I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City,
Missouri, this __27th____day of _______, 1998.

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