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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 11th  
day of February, 1998.

In the Matter of the Petition of Birch Telecom of )  
Missouri, Inc. for Arbitration of the Rates, Terms, ) Case No. TO-98-278  
Conditions and Related Arrangements for Intercon- )  
nection With Southwestern Bell Telephone Company. )

**ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO MODIFY PROCEDURAL  
SCHEDULE AND TO CORRECT PREVIOUS PROCEDURAL ORDER**

On December 31, 1997, Birch Telecom of Missouri, Inc. (Birch) filed a petition with the Commission to arbitrate the terms of interconnection between Birch and Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBT) pursuant to Section 252(b) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act). Because of the time constraints imposed by the Act, the Commission issued an Order Adopting Procedural Schedule and Protective Order (Procedural Order) on January 27, 1998.

On February 9, Birch moved to modify certain elements of the procedural schedule. Specifically, Birch's proposal would extend the filing deadline for all of the parties' direct testimony from February 13 to February 18, extend the deadline for filing all of the parties' rebuttal testimony from February 27 to March 4, and reschedule the prehearing conference to March 6. Additionally, Birch's attorney represented to the Commission that SWBT does not oppose the proposed modifications to the current procedural schedule.

The Commission finds Birch's request to be reasonable and will not prejudice any party. Therefore, the Commission will grant Birch's motion and modify the procedural schedule as proposed.

The Procedural Order also erroneously indicated that the Commission Staff (Staff) would be responsible for preparing and filing the hearing memorandum. The parties themselves will be responsible for preparing and filing the hearing memorandum in accordance with the procedural schedule.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

1. That the Motion to Modify Procedural Schedule filed by Birch Telecom of Missouri, Inc., on February 9, 1998, is granted.

2. That the following modified procedural schedule is adopted for this proceeding:

All Parties' Direct Testimony	February 18, 1998 3:00 p.m.
All Parties' Rebuttal Testimony	March 4, 1998 3:00 p.m.
Prehearing Conference	March 6, 1998 9:00 a.m.
Hearing Memorandum	March 9, 1998 5:00 p.m.
Evidentiary Hearing	March 16, 1998 9:00 a.m.
All Parties' Briefs	March 30, 1998 5:00 p.m.

3. That Birch Telecom of Missouri, Inc., and Southwestern Bell Telephone Company shall jointly file a hearing memorandum in accordance with the modified procedural schedule.

4. That this order shall be effective on February 11, 1998.

BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Dale Hardy Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dale Hardy Roberts  
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

( S E A L )

Lumpe, Ch., Crumpton, Drainer  
and Murray, GC., concur.

Hennessey, Regulatory Law Judge

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COMMISSION COUNSEL  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION