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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 April, 2000.

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 DISMISSING APPLICATION

On September 1, 1999, Missouri State Discount Telephone (M-SDT) filed an Application for Certificate of Service Authority and for Competitive Classification. Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, the Small Telephone Group,<sup>1</sup> and the Mid-Missouri Group of Local Exchange Companies<sup>2</sup> were subsequently allowed to intervene. A procedural schedule was established and the case was set for hearing on May 1, 2000.

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<sup>1</sup> BPS Telephone Company, Cass County Telephone Company, Citizens Telephone Company of Higginsville, Missouri, Inc., Craw-Kan Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Ellington Telephone Company, Farber Telephone Company, Goodman Telephone Company, Granby Telephone Company, Grand River Mutual Telephone Corporation, Green Hills Telephone Corporation, Holway Telephone Company, KLM Telephone Company, Kingdom Telephone Company, Lathrop Telephone Company, Le-Ru Telephone Company, Mark Twain Rural Telephone Company, McDonald County Telephone Company, Miller Telephone Company, New Florence Telephone Company, New London Telephone Company, Orchard Farm Telephone Company, Oregon Farmers Mutual Telephone Company, Ozark Telephone Company, Peace Valley Telephone Company, Rock Port Telephone Company, Seneca Telephone Company, Steelville Telephone Exchange, Inc., and Stoutland Telephone Company.

<sup>2</sup> Alma, Chariton Valley, Choctaw, Mid-Missouri, Modern, MoKan Dial and Northeast Missouri Rural.

According to the procedural schedule, M-SDT was to file its direct testimony on February 18. Instead, on February 22, the parties filed a joint stipulation and agreement. The Staff of the Commission filed written suggestions in support of the stipulation and agreement on February 23. No party responded to Staff's suggestions.

The Commission reviewed the joint stipulation and agreement and Staff's suggestions in support of the agreement. However, the Commission continued to have questions about M-SDT's application and the joint stipulation and agreement. Therefore, on March 9, 2000, the Commission issued an order that directed the parties to appear for an on-the-record-presentation regarding the joint stipulation and agreement. The on-the-record-presentation was scheduled for March 24, 2000.

M-SDT did not appear for the on-the-record-presentation and its failure to appear was not excused by the Commission. Staff, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, the Small Telephone Group, and the Mid-Missouri Group of Local Exchange Companies did appear for the hearing. Two witnesses testified on behalf of Staff but they were unable to answer all of the Commission's questions about M-SDT's application.

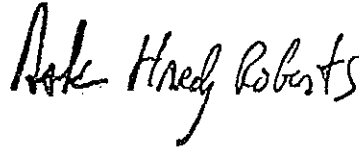
4 CSR 240-2.110(4)(B) provides that a party's failure to attend a hearing without having previously secured a continuance shall constitute grounds for dismissal of the party's application. M-SDT failed to appear for the March 24 on-the-record-presentation and did not request a continuance. Because it failed to appear for the on-the-record-presentation when ordered to do so by the Commission, M-SDT's Application for Certificate of Service Authority will be dismissed.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

1. That the Application for Certificate of Service Authority filed by Missouri State Discount Telephone on September 1, 1999, is dismissed.

2. That this order shall become effective on May 10, 2000.

**BY THE COMMISSION**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale Hardy Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

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

( S E A L )

Lumpe, Ch., Crumpton, Murray,  
Schemenauer, and Drainer, CC., concur

Woodruff, Regulatory Law Judge