1/2

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of)	
Townes Telecommunications, Inc. for an)	
Order Authorizing Townes Telecommuni-)	
cations, Inc. to Purchase or Acquire,)	Case No. TM-99-79
Take or Hold All of the Issued and)	
Outstanding Capital Stock of Choctaw)	
Telephone Company, Inc.)	

ORDER SETTING EARLY PREHEARING CONFERENCE

On August 26, 1998, Townes Telecommunications, Inc. (Townes or Applicant) filed its Application requesting the Commission's approval to acquire ownership of all outstanding stock of Choctaw Telephone Company, Inc. (Choctaw). Townes filed a Motion for Protective Order on August 27 requesting that a standard protective order be issued. On September 1, the Commission issued its Order Granting Protective Order.

On December 15, Staff filed its Motion to Reject Application stating that Townes had failed to provide adequate responses to Staff Data Requests No. 7, 9, and 13. Staff further stated that these data other similar requests are same data as requested in telecommunications sales transactions. Staff requested that the application be rejected or certain conditions be added to approval of the sale.

On December 18, Townes filed its Motion for Approval of Application, Motion to Strike Motion to Reject Application, Suggestions

in Support requesting that the Commission strike the Motion to Reject Application as untimely and approve Townes' application to acquire all of Choctaw's outstanding stock.

The Commission will schedule a prehearing conference. The parties should be prepared to discuss the facts and stipulate to those facts which are not in dispute. Specifically, the parties should be prepared to discuss the data requests at issue. If the parties are not able to resolve the issues in this case, the parties shall then file a recommended procedural schedule for Commission approval.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

- 1. That a prehearing conference is now set in this matter on February 9, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. Commission's offices on the fifth floor of the Harry S Truman State Office Building, 301 West High Street, Conference Room 3, Jefferson City, Missouri. Any person with special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the Missouri Public Service Commission at least ten (10) days prior to the hearing at one of the following numbers: Consumer Services Hotline -- 1-800-392-4211, or TDD Hotline -- 1-800-829-7541.
- 2. The parties shall file a recommended procedural schedule by February 19, 1999 for Commission approval.

3. That this order shall become effective on February 8, 1999.

BY THE COMMISSION

Hole Hard Roberts

Dale Hardy Roberts

Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(SEAL)

Shelly A. Register, 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 27th day of January, 1999.

NOISSIMMOO EOVAISS OLIGINA