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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 26th
day of March, 1998.

In the Matter of the Application of U.S. Telco,)
Inc., for Certificates of Service Authority to)
Provide Basic Local Telecommunications Service in) Case No. TA-97-444
Portions of the State of Missouri and to Classify)
Said Services as Competitive.)
)

ORDER APPROVING TARIFF

The Commission granted to U.S. Telco, Inc. (Telco) a certificate of service authority to provide basic local telecommunications services in Missouri by Report and Order issued on September 16, 1997. The order, which took effect on September 26, directed the company to file tariff sheets reflecting the rates, rules, regulations it will use and the services it will offer, and provided that Telco's certificate would become effective concurrent with the effective date of the company's proposed tariffs. The order temporarily waived the filing of a 45-day tariff as required by 4 CSR 240-2.060(4)(H) until Telco entered into a Commission-approved interconnection agreement that enabled it to provide basic local services, and ordered Telco to file tariff sheets for approval no later than 30 days after the Commission approved the required interconnection agreement(s).

Telco's certificate authorizes it to provide basic local services in the exchanges served by Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBT), GTE Midwest Incorporated (GTE), and Sprint Missouri, Inc. d/b/a Sprint (Sprint). Telco entered into an interconnection agreement with SWBT which

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was approved by the Commission in Case No. TO-98-182 on January 21, 1998. Telco does not yet have interconnection agreements with GTE and Sprint.

Telco filed tariff sheets on February 13 with an effective date of March 31, and filed substitute sheets on March 13. The tariff filing will be applicable to SWBT exchanges identified in Original Pages 26, 27, and 28. When the Commission has approved agreements between Telco and GTE or Sprint, the tariff will need to be revised accordingly.

The Commission's Staff reviewed the tariff sheets and filed a memorandum on March 24 recommending that the Commission approve the tariff as amended by the substitute sheets. Staff stated that Telco will be providing resold telecommunications services on a prepaid basis. The company will provide a two-way switched voice service which will include a directory listing and access to 911 emergency services. Telco will not offer optional calling plans and Telco basic local customers will not have access to toll or operator-assisted calling, operator services, or directory assistance.

Telco will charge customers a one-time initiation fee of \$40.00 and a monthly rate of \$49.99. Each customer will receive a Statement of Customer Rights and Responsibilities (Tariff, pages 33 through 36) setting out the rates, billing and payment arrangements, disconnection or suspension procedures, and reconnection procedures. The statement explains what toll services are blocked, and describes how a customer can file a complaint with the Commission. The company's policy provides for a refund of fees if service is canceled within ten business days after mailing or delivery of the Statement of Customer Rights and Responsibilities.

Telco allows customers 21 days to pay their bills as required by Commission rule. The billing items as described in the tariff and the

separate listing of taxes and surcharges also comply with Commission rule. Staff stated that the proposed tariff, as amended, is similar to the approved tariffs of other competitive basic local service companies in Missouri providing prepaid services.

The Commission has reviewed Telco's proposed tariff and Staff's recommendation and finds that the tariff details the services, equipment, and pricing it proposes to offer, and is similar to tariffs approved for other Missouri certificated basic local service providers. The Commission finds that the proposed tariff should be approved as amended to become effective on March 31, 1998.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the tariff filed by U.S. Telco, Inc. on February 13, 1998, is approved as amended to become effective on March 31, 1998. The tariff approved is: MO. P.S.C. No. 1, Original Title Page through Original Page 36.

2. That the certificate of service authority to provide basic local telecommunications service granted to U.S. Telco, Inc. on September 16, 1997, shall become effective on March 31, 1998.

3. That U.S. Telco, Inc. shall mail the Statement of Customer Rights and Responsibilities to each customer within five days of the date on which U.S. Telco, Inc. is scheduled to begin providing service to that customer.

4. That this order shall become effective on March 31, 1998.

5. That this case will be closed on April 1, 1998.

BY THE COMMISSION

Dale Hardy Roberts

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

(S E A L)

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

Wickliffe, Deputy Chief Regulatory Law Judge

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