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ORDER AND NOTICE

United Telephone Company of Missouri d/b/a Sprint (Sprint) and Southwestern Bell Wireless Inc. (Bell Wireless) filed an Application with the Commission on December 5, 1997, for approval of an interconnection agreement between Sprint and Bell Wireless under the provisions of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act). The applicants state that there are no unresolved issues, that the agreement complies with Section 252(e) of the Act, is not discriminatory and is consistent with the public interest. The applicants request expeditious approval of the agreement without change, suspension, or other delay in its implementation.

The Commission finds that proper persons should be allowed 20 days from the issuance of this order to file a motion for hearing or an application to participate without intervention. Participation may be permitted for the limited purpose of filing comments addressing whether this agreement meets the federal standards for approval of interconnection agreements. The requirement of a hearing is met when an opportunity to be heard has been provided and no proper party has requested the opportunity to present evidence. State ex rel. Rex Deffenderfer Enterprises, Inc. v. Public Service Commission, 776 S.W.2d 494, 496 (Mo. App. 1989). Therefore,

if no party requests a hearing, the Commission may grant the relief requested based on the verified application.

The standards for approval are as follows:

§252(e) APPROVAL BY STATE COMMISSION

- (1) **APPROVAL REQUIRED.**— Any interconnection agreement adopted by negotiation or arbitration shall be submitted for approval to the State commission. A State commission to which an agreement is submitted shall approve or reject the agreement, with written findings as to any deficiencies.
- (2) **GROUND FOR REJECTION.**— The State commission may only reject—
 - (A) an agreement (or any portion thereof) adopted by negotiation under subsection (a) if it finds that --
 - (i) the agreement (or portion thereof) discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement; or
 - (ii) the implementation of such agreement or portion is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity;

Section 252(e) (4) provides that if the Commission has not approved an agreement within ninety days after submission, the agreement shall be deemed approved. Therefore, the Commission will proceed with this case expeditiously and, if there are no requests for a hearing, relief may be granted based on the verified petition. The Commission finds that notice of this application should be sent to all interexchange and local exchange telecommunications companies.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the Records Department of the Commission shall send notice as described in this order.

2. That any party wishing to request a hearing or to participate without intervention in this matter shall file an application no later than January 2, 1998, with the Secretary of the Missouri Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, and send copies to:

Linda K. Gardner, Senior Attorney
United Telephone Company of the
Midwest d/b/a Sprint
5454 West 110th Street
Overland park, Kansas 66211

Bruce Beard, Attorney
Southwestern Bell Wireless Inc.
10375 Manchester, First Floor
St. Louis, Missouri 63131

3. That comments addressing whether this agreement meets the standards for approval of interconnection agreements must be filed no later than February 3, 1998.

4. That the Staff of the Commission shall file a memorandum advising either approval or rejection of this agreement and giving the reasons therefore no later than February 13, 1998.

5. That this order shall become effective on December 12, 1997.

BY THE COMMISSION



(S E A L)

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

Kevin F. Hennessey, 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 12th day of December, 1997.