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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Petition of Sprint)	
Communications Company, L.P., for Arbitration)	Case No. TO-99-461
of Unresolved Interconnection Issues Regarding)	
xDSL with Southwestern Bell Telephone Company.)	

ORDER DIRECTING STAFF PARTICIPATION

On April 13, 1999, Sprint Communications Company, L.P. (Sprint), filed its petition for arbitration with the Commission pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act) and Section 386.230 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri. The petition asks the Commission to arbitrate issues related to the amendment of Sprint's existing interconnection agreement with Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBT) to add language regarding xDSL services. Specifically, the parties are unable to agree on the pricing of those xDSL services.

On April 15, 1999, the Commission issued a Notice of Petition for Arbitration, making SWBT a party, directing that a copy of the petition be served upon SWBT by the Commission's Records Department, and setting May 10, 1999, as the date by which SWBT's response to the petition, if any, must be filed. On that day, SWBT filed its motion seeking an extension, up to and including May 17, 1999, within which to file its response to Sprint's petition. SWBT filed its response to the petition

¹All references herein to the Revised Statutes of Missouri (RSMo), unless otherwise specified, are to the revision of 1994.

for arbitration on May 17, 1999, and the Commission granted the requested extension on May 18, 1999.

A prehearing conference was held on June 11, 1999. On June 15, 1999, Sprint moved for a protective order. On June 18, 1999, SWBT joined in Sprint's request that the Commission enter its standard protective order in this case. On June 22, 1999, the Commission issued its Order Adopting Procedural Schedule and Order Adopting Protective Order.

In order that the Commission may more easily carry out its statutory duty to arbitrate this matter and, in doing so, safeguard the interests and welfare of the people of the state of Missouri, the Commission finds that the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) is a necessary party herein. The Staff shall file rebuttal testimony, present and examine witnesses at the hearing, and file a brief herein.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission is made a party to this matter.

2. That this order shall become effective on July 6, 1999.

BY THE COMMISSION

Adk Hard Roberts

Dale Hardy Roberts Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(SEAL)

Kevin A. Thompson, Deputy Chief 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 23rd day of June, 1999.

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COMMISSION COUNSEL'
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION