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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of)
Western Tele-Communications, Inc./)
Retail Sales Group d/b/a People Link)
by TCI for a Certificate of Service) Case No. TA-98-397
Authority as a Reseller of Competitive)
Intrastate Interexchange Telecommunications)
Services.)

ORDER APPROVING INTEREXCHANGE CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE AUTHORITY AND
ORDER APPROVING TARIFF

Western Tele-Communications, Inc./Retail Sales Group d/b/a Western Tele-Communications, Incorporated/Retail Sales Group d/b/a People Link by TCI¹ (WTI/RSG) applied to the Public Service Commission on March 20, 1998, for a certificate of service authority to provide intrastate interexchange telecommunications services in Missouri under § 392.440, RSMo 1994². WTI/RSG asked the Commission to classify it as a competitive company and waive certain statutes and rules as authorized by §§ 392.361 and 392.420. Applicant is a Colorado corporation, with its principal office located at 5619 DTC Parkway, 8th Floor, Englewood, Colorado 80111.

The Commission issued a Notice of Applications and Opportunity to Intervene on March 24, directing parties wishing to intervene to file their requests by April 8. The requirement for a hearing is met when the

¹ The corporate name of the company is Western Tele-Communications, Inc./Retail Sales Group d/b/a Western Tele-Communications, Incorporated/Retail Sales Group, while the fictitious name of the company is People Link by TCI.

² All statutory references are to the Revised Statutes of Missouri 1994 unless otherwise indicated.

opportunity for hearing 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). Since no one has asked permission to intervene or requested a hearing, the Commission may grant the relief requested based on the verified application.

WTI/RSG filed a proposed tariff in conjunction with its application and filed substitute sheets on May 11. The tariff's effective date was originally May 4, but was subsequently extended to May 31. WTI/RSG's tariff describes the rates, rules, and regulations it intends to use, identifies WTI/RSG as a competitive company, and lists the waivers requested. WTI/RSG intends to provide interexchange telecommunications services including debit card services.

In its Memorandum filed on May 20, the Staff of the Commission stated that Applicant's proposed services are similar to existing IXC offerings. Staff recommended that the Commission grant Applicant a certificate of service authority, competitive status, and waiver of the statutes and rules listed in the Notice. Staff recommended that the Commission approve the proposed tariff as amended to become effective on May 31.

The Commission finds that competition in the intrastate interexchange telecommunications market is in the public interest and Applicant should be granted a certificate of service authority. The Commission finds that the services Applicant proposes to offer are competitive and Applicant should be classified as a competitive company. The Commission finds that waiving the statutes and Commission rules set out in the ordered paragraph below is reasonable and not detrimental to the public interest.

The Commission finds that WRI/RSG's proposed tariff details the services, equipment, and pricing it proposes to offer, and is similar to tariffs approved for other Missouri certificated interexchange carriers. The Commission finds that the proposed tariff filed on March 20 shall be approved as amended to become effective on May 31.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That Western Tele-Communications, Inc./Retail Sales Group d/b/a Western Tele-Communications, Incorporated/Retail Sales Group d/b/a People Link by TCI is granted a certificate of service authority to provide intrastate interexchange telecommunications services in the state of Missouri, subject to all applicable statutes and Commission rules except as specified in this order.

2. That Western Tele-Communications, Inc./Retail Sales Group d/b/a Western Tele-Communications, Incorporated/Retail Sales Group d/b/a People Link by TCI is classified as a competitive telecommunications company. Application of the following statutes and regulatory rules shall be waived:

Statutes

392.240(1) - ratemaking
392.270 - valuation of property (ratemaking)
392.280 - depreciation accounts
392.290 - issuance of securities
392.310 - stock and debt issuance
392.320 - stock dividend payment
392.340 - reorganization(s)
392.330, RSMo Supp. 1997 - issuance of securities, debts and notes

Commission Rules

4 CSR 240-10.020	- depreciation fund income
4 CSR 240-30.010(2)(C)	- rate schedules
4 CSR 240-30.040	- Uniform System of Accounts
4 CSR 240-32.030(1)(B)	- exchange boundary maps

4 CSR 240-32.030(1)(C)	- record keeping
4 CSR 240-32.030(2)	- in-state record keeping
4 CSR 240-32.050(3)	- local office record keeping
4 CSR 240-32.050(4)	- telephone directories
4 CSR 240-32.050(5)	- call intercept
4 CSR 240-32.050(6)	- telephone number changes
4 CSR 240-32.070(4)	- public coin telephone
4 CSR 240-33.030	- minimum charges rule
4 CSR 240-33.040(5)	- financing fees

3. That the tariff filed by Western Tele-Communications, Inc./Retail Sales Group d/b/a Western Tele-Communications, Incorporated/Retail Sales Group d/b/a People Link by TCI on March 20, 1998, is approved as amended to become effective on May 31, 1998. The tariff approved is:

P.S.C. Mo. No. 1

4. That this order shall become effective on May 31, 1998.
5. That this case shall be closed on June 8, 1998.

BY THE COMMISSION



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

(S E A L)

Elaine E. Bensavage, 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 28th day of May, 1998.