

STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

At a Session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office
in Jefferson City on the 13th
day of September, 1995.

In the matter of United Telephone Company)
of Missouri's tariff revision designed to)
offer "INFO-LINK" on a trial basis.) **Case No. TT-96-58**

ORDER APPROVING TARIFF

On August 23, 1995, United Telephone Company of Missouri (United) submitted proposed tariff sheets to introduce a service referred to as "INFO-LINK service" (INFO-LINK). INFO-LINK is a service providing toll-free calling to an Internet Service Provider (ISP). If approved, INFO-LINK will initially be offered on a trial basis through February 29, 1996 in only the California, Missouri, exchange. This would provide customers access to the ISPs located in the Jefferson City exchange. Along with the submission of the proposed tariff sheet(s) United requested expedited approval of this tariff and this docket was created to address that request.

On September 6, 1995, the Telecommunications Department Staff of the Public Service Commission (Staff) filed its Memorandum in which it requested expedited approval of the tariff. Staff's Memorandum states that the company officials indicate a six-month trial period will provide United with the information necessary to evaluate the offering of INFO-LINK. This trial period will determine, inter alia, actual monthly usage of the service. Based upon this information, United will determine if the service should be modified, discontinued, or continued and offered in other exchanges. Pending Commission approval, United will begin notifying customers of the service by means of direct mail notice.

Staff has stated that customers subscribing to INFO-LINK in the California exchange would dial a seven-digit number to reach an ISP located in the Jefferson City exchange. Customers must separately subscribe to an ISP on their own and provide the necessary software and hardware to do so. These ISPs include services such as those provided by America Online or Prodigy. INFO-LINK provides only a one-way toll-free data communication link between the end-user and the ISP. The service does not provide direct use of or access to the Internet, nor can it be used for voice communication.

INFO-LINK is initially being offered to residential customers and business customers for \$5.00 and \$7.50 per month, respectively. The charges are on a per-line basis and paid in advance with the regular monthly recurring charges. When Info-Link is used by a customer with Centrex service, rates will be determined on an individual case basis due to translation changes which may be required. Customers can dial up their presubscribed ISP an unlimited number of times during the month. United officials have projected that the average customer will generate approximately thirty hours per month. If toll charges were to apply in lieu of INFO-LINK, company officials claim the average customer's bill would be approximately \$230 per month.

United has submitted long run incremental cost information in support of its filing and Staff has reviewed this data. Staff finds that the rates for INFO-LINK will cover the cost of providing the service.

The Commission has reviewed the proposed tariff sheets, the Staff Memorandum and the entirety of the file and makes the following findings of fact. The service proposed herein will offer more direct access to the national and international information infrastructure, commonly referred to as the Internet. The Commission finds that the

proposed rate for this service offers the customers an opportunity for savings. The Commission finds that the service proposed by this tariff is in the public interest and should be approved.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the INFO-LINK service tariff identified by file #9600131 and filed on August 23, 1995, is hereby approved for service on and after September 14, 1995:

P.S.C. Mo. No. 22


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2. That this order shall become effective on September 14, 1995.

BY THE COMMISSION



David L. Rauch
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

McClure, Kincheloe, Crumpton
and Drainer, CC., Concur.
Mueller, Chm., Absent.