

STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

At a Session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office
in Jefferson City on the 27th
day of September, 1995.

In re: the application of AT&T Communications)
of the Southwest, Inc. for variance from certain) CASE NO. TO-96-66
provisions of 4 CSR 240-33.)

ORDER GRANTING VARIANCE AND APPROVING TARIFF SHEETS

AT&T Communications of the Southwest, Inc. (AT&T) filed an application for a variance on September 1, 1995, requesting that the Commission waive the requirements of 4 CSR 240-33.020(1)(C) and 4 CSR 240-33.040(1). AT&T filed tariff sheets, Filing #9600155, designed to implement the variance from Commission Rules on the same date. The purpose of the variance is to permit AT&T to institute a bi-monthly billing program for customers with low usage. Customers whose average monthly usage averages \$10.00 or less over twelve months would be included in the bi-monthly billing plan and so notified by AT&T. Should any customer in the program incur a bill of more than \$25.00 in one month, that customer would be provided with monthly billing for the month. AT&T would not charge customers for a change to or from the bi-monthly billing plan. AT&T informed the Commission that a typographical error had been made in its initial application: paragraph 4(d) states that "a customer whose bill exceeds \$20 one month will revert to a monthly bill for that one month" whereas the amount quoted should be \$25. Customers on the bi-monthly billing plan would be permitted to change to a monthly billing plan, regardless of usage, on request and at no charge. AT&T stated that institution of this program would reduce paperwork for both company and customers, ultimately reducing costs to ratepayers.

The Commission's Staff filed a memorandum setting out its recommendation on September 27, 1995. Staff stated that similar variances have been granted by the Commission to allow bi-monthly billing. Staff reviewed the application and associated tariff and stated that the program proposed by AT&T was reasonably structured in that the dollar amount for bi-monthly customers is low. Staff also pointed out that customers have easy access to other interexchange carriers if they are dissatisfied with AT&T's billing policies. Staff recommended that the Commission approve the application for variance, and the associated tariff sheets to become effective on October 1, 1995. Staff also recommended that the Commission direct AT&T to file tariffs that reflect the waiver of Commission Rules 4 CSR 240-33.020(1)(C) and 4 CSR 240-33.040(1) within 30 days of the effective date of the order.

Having reviewed the application, tariff sheets, and Staff's memorandum, the Commission finds there is good cause for a variance from 4 CSR 240-33.020(1)(C) and 4 CSR 240-33.040(1). The Commission is of the opinion that granting the variance and permitting the company to institute a bi-monthly billing program for low usage customers will result in cost savings. The Commission finds that affected customers are adequately protected from any adverse effects since they are able to change to monthly billing on request without charge. The Commission finds that the tariffs sheets associated with this variance should be approved effective October 1, 1995.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That AT&T Communications of the Southwest, Inc. be granted a variance from Commission Rules 4 CSR 240-33.020(1)(C) and 4 CSR 240-33.040(1) to the extent of instituting a bi-monthly billing program for low usage customers as described in its application.

2. That AT&T Communications of the Southwest, Inc. shall file a revised tariff sheet within 30 days of the effective date of this order that reflects the variance granted by this order.

3. That the tariff sheets filed by AT&T Communications of the Southwest, Inc. on September 1, 1995, are approved to become effective on October 1, 1995. The tariff sheets approved are:

P.S.C. Mo. No. 15

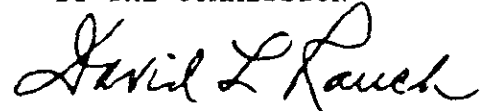
Sec. 1, 2nd Revised Sheet 5, replacing 1st Revised Sheet 5

Sec. 1, Original Sheet 5.1

Sec. 2, 2nd Revised Sheet 7, replacing 1st Revised Sheet 7.

4. That this order shall become effective on October 1, 1995.

BY THE COMMISSION



David L. Rauch
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

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