

STATE OF MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

At a Session of the Public Service  
Commission held at its office  
in Jefferson City on the 11th  
day of June, 1996.

In the Matter of the Request for Community                    )  
Optional Service From Southwestern Bell                    ) CASE NO. TO-96-224  
Telephone's Carthage Exchange to Southwestern            )  
Bell Telephone's Joplin and Webb City Exchanges.        )

ORDER OF IMPLEMENTATION AND PARTIAL DISMISSAL

On December 29, 1989, the Commission issued a Report and Order in Case No. TO-87-131 directing local exchange companies (LECs) in Missouri to offer community optional service (COS) in exchanges demonstrating a community of interest. The Commission determined that a community of interest is demonstrated when an average of six calls per access line per month are made from petitioning exchange to the requested exchange and two-thirds of the customers in the petitioning exchange make two or more calls to the requested exchange per month. *In re the investigation of experimental extended measured service (EMS)*, 30 Mo. P.S.C. (N.S.) 45 (1989).

On December 23, 1992, the Commission issued a Report and Order in Case No. TO-92-306 approving a statewide expanded calling scope plan. The plan, among other provisions, modified COS to a two-way service only and adjusted the rates for COS. The Commission also assigned primary toll carriers (PTCs) to implement COS in exchanges demonstrating a community of interest. *In re the establishment of a plan for expanded calling scopes in metropolitan and outstate exchanges*, 2 Mo. P.S.C.3d 1 (1992).

On January 22, 1996, the Commission received a petition signed by the residents of the Carthage exchange served by Southwestern Bell

Telephone Company (Bell) requesting COS from the Carthage exchange to the Joplin and Webb City exchanges also served by Bell. Bell is also the assigned PTC for this route.

On January 31, 1996, the Commission directed Bell to perform a calling usage study to ascertain whether a sufficient community of interest exists between these exchanges. On May 22, 1996, Bell filed the results of the calling usage study performed in said exchanges. The results of said study are as follows:

<u>Original Exchange</u>	<u>Terminating Exchange</u>	<u>Average Calls Per Access Line</u>	<u>Percent Making 2+ Calls</u>
Carthage	Joplin	12.36	70.50;
Carthage	Webb City	2.28	27.47.

On May 30, 1996, the Staff of the Commission (Staff) filed a memorandum recommending that COS be implemented between Carthage and Joplin within 120 days. Staff also recommended that the Carthage to Webb City route be dismissed.

Inasmuch as the Carthage to Joplin route has met the calling criteria set forth by the Commission in Case No. TO-87-131, the Commission finds that a community of interest has been demonstrated. Thus, the Commission determines that COS should be implemented between the Carthage exchange and the Joplin exchange within 120 days of the effective date of this Order. Furthermore, inasmuch as the Carthage to Webb City route did not demonstrate a sufficient community of interest, the Commission determines the petition for that route should be dismissed.

Although a petitioned route in this case will be dismissed, customers may still be provided expanded calling through the statewide expanded calling scope plan approved by the Commission in Case No. TO-92-306. The plan implements a Metropolitan Calling Area (MCA) service in St.

Louis, Kansas City and Springfield. The plan also provides an Outstate Calling Area (OCA) service for those exchanges not included in an MCA. The OCA service is an optional service offered for expanded calling beyond a customer's local exchange within a 23-mile radius from each exchange's central office. *In re expanded calling scopes*, id.

Inquiries concerning the expanded calling scope plan approved by the Commission should be directed to the Information Office of the Missouri Public Service Commission, P. O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

1. That Southwestern Bell Telephone Company shall implement community optional service between the Carthage exchange and the Joplin exchange within 120 days after the issuance of this Order.
2. That the petition for community optional service from the Carthage exchange to the Webb City exchange is hereby dismissed.
3. That this Order shall become effective on June 21, 1996.

BY THE COMMISSION



David L. Rauch  
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

Zobrist, Chm., McClure, Kincheloe,  
and Drainer, CC., Concur.  
Crumpton, C., Absent.

ALJ: Grothoff