

BEFORE THE MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In Re the Matter of Teleconnect Long	)	
Distance Services and Systems Company	)	
a MCI WorldCom Company d/b/a TelecomUSA,	)	Case No. XT-2004-0617
Proposed Tariff to Increase its Intrastate	)	Tariff File No. JX-2004-1436
Connection Fee to Recover Access Costs	)	
Charged by Local Telephone Companies.	)	

**TELECONNECT LONG DISTANCE SERVICES AND SYSTEMS CO.'S  
RESPONSE TO COMMISSION QUESTIONS**

COMES NOW Teleconnect Long Distance Services and Systems Co. (Teleconnect), and responds to questions posed by the Commission at the proceedings held herein on July 16, 2004.

1. The Commission inquired about whether Teleconnect filed comments regarding an FCC proceeding that Public Counsel mentioned. Teleconnect did file comments with the FCC regarding NASUCA's Petition regarding monthly line items and surcharges, on July 14, 2004. (CG Docket 04-208). NASUCA's Petition asks the FCC to take the unprecedented and sweeping step of prohibiting telecommunications carriers from making any use of "monthly line-item charges, surcharges or other fees on customers' bills, unless such charges have been expressly mandated by a regulatory agency." In its comments, Teleconnect made clear that it opposes NASUCA's extreme and unfounded request. A copy of Teleconnect's comments is filed herewith.

2. The Commission inquired as to whether Teleconnect would consent herein to directives regarding the manner in which the rates in question are discussed with customers. Teleconnect is not willing to consent to unique marketing and billing constraints that would be imposed only upon it. As discussed in the attached comments, many companies use monthly line-items, surcharges and other fees in their billing structure. There is no justification for

singling out Teleconnect and imposing unique restrictions upon it. That is particularly the case given the limited scope of this proceeding. As discussed during the proceedings held herein on July 16, 2004, concerns regarding industry marketing and billing practices are not germane to the examination of the simple competitive rate increase that is at issue in this matter. And in any event, as stated in the attached comments, "MCI representatives are trained to proactively inform consumers on every sales call that taxes and surcharges apply, and to answer questions related to these charges." (MCI Comments, p. 8). Information regarding such charges is also available on MCI's website and in their welcome kit. (Id.).

3. Finally, the Commission inquired as to whether any of the calling plans that would include the subject rate in the applicable structure also include monthly minimum fees. There are a variety of calling plans involved that include lower usage rates coupled with monthly minimums.

Respectfully submitted,

CURTIS, HEINZ,  
GARRETT & O'KEEFE, P.C.

/s/ Carl J. Lumley

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## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document was sent via e-mail or U.S. Mail on the 21st day of July, 2004 to the following:

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