

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of an Investigation into the)
Provisioning of Expanded Local Calling) Case No. TO-2003-0297
Plans in Rural Areas of Missouri)

**SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE, L.P., D/B/A SBC MISSOURI'S
RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC COUNSEL'S RESPONSE TO
ORDER DIRECTING FILING**

Comes now Southwestern Bell Telephone, L.P., d/b/a SBC Missouri ("SBC Missouri"), and for its Response to the Office of Public Counsel's Response to Order Directing Filing, states as follows:

1. On January 7, 2005, the Office of Public Counsel ("OPC") filed its Response to Order Directing Filing in the above-referenced matter. In its pleading, OPC requested the Commission to refrain from closing this case because a final resolution of the relief sought has not been accomplished.

2. As the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") is aware, a rule in progress, 4 CSR 240-2.061 will address all of the concerns that OPC raises in the instant action. Specifically, the Commission initiated a rulemaking, TX-2005-0194, In the Matter of Proposed Rule 4 CSR 240-2.061, Applications for Expanded Local Calling Area Plans within a Community of Interest. The Commission issued A Notice of Finding of Necessity in that case on December 30, 2004. The Commission sent a rulemaking packet to the Department of Economic Development and is waiting for its return. Once the packet is returned, the Commission has stated that the proposed rule will be filed with the Missouri Secretary of State's Office. Thereafter, interested parties will be able to file written comments and attend a hearing on the matter. The Commission will then publish its rule.


3. Once the rule is published, rural customers will have an avenue to obtain expanded calling scopes if, in fact, such calling scopes are necessary.

4. It makes little sense to keep this case, which had been dormant for 13 months (December 31st, 2003-January 26, 2005), open. Rather, it makes more sense for a new case to be established on the basis of Rule 4 CSR 2.061 if, in fact, rural customers seek to expand their calling scopes.

Wherefore, Southwestern Bell Telephone, L.P., d/b/a SBC Missouri, prays the Commission dismisses the above-captioned matter, and grants any additional relief it deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE, L.P.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Copies of this document were served on the following parties via e-mail on February 11, 2005.


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