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May 30, 2002

Secretary of the PSC
Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Re: Case No. **TO-99-593**

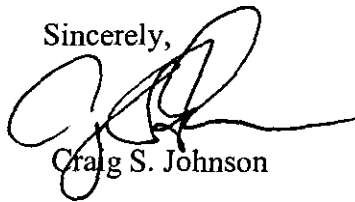
Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed please find the original and eight (8) copies of the response of the MITG to the replies of SWBT and Verizon. This response would have been filed earlier, except that counsel for the MITG did not receive Southwestern Bell's reply to MITG until May 29th, even though it was stamped 'Filed' with the Commission on May 24.

A copy of this filing along with a copy of this cover letter has been served upon all attorneys of record.

Thank you for seeing this filed.

Sincerely,



Craig S. Johnson

CSJ:mo
Enclosure

cc: Office of Public Counsel
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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Investigation into	)	
Signaling Protocols, Call Records,	)	
Trunking Arrangements, and Traffic	)	Case No. TO-99-593
Measurement.	)	

Response of the MITG
to the Replies of
Southwestern Bell Telephone Company and Verizon Midwest
to the MITG's Response to Staff's May 7 Report on the Status of Implementation of
Ordering and Billing Forum Issue 2056

Comes now the Missouri Independent Telephone Company Group (MITG), and submits the following Response to the Replies of Southwestern Bell Telephone Company and Verizon Midwest to the MITG's Response to Staff's May 7 Report on the Status of Implementation of Ordering and Billing Forum Issue 2056.

1. In the MITG's May 14 Response to Staff's Report, the MITG attempted to convey its concerns that the former PTCs were taking the position that a uniform implementation of OBF Issue 2056 was not required for traffic being placed upon the FGC Common trunks. The MITG read, and still reads, the position statements of the former PTCs to mean that the OBF Issue 2056 does not require a uniform application of OBF Issue 2056 principles to the traffic the former PTCs are placing on the FGC common trunks-LEC toll traffic, CLEC local traffic, and wireless traffic. (The former PTCs seem to agree that Issue 2056 does apply to IXC traffic.) It was, and still is, the MITG's interpretation of the Commission's Order directing implementation that the Commission intended a uniform application of record and record exchange processes

called for by OBF Issue 2056 to all carriers and all traffic placed on the FGC common trunks.

2. In the MITG May 14 Response, the MITG repeated, *verbatim*, the former PTC position statements indicating their position that certain record creation, record type, and record exchange principles of Issue 2056 were only intended for IXC traffic, and that these principles did not apply to traffic placed on the FGC common trunks pursuant to agreements between the former PTCs and CLECs or wireless carriers. SWBT and Verizon do not take issue that the MITG correctly set out their position statements. Instead, in their Responses, SWBT and Verizon criticize the MITG as misstating or mischaracterizing their positions.

3. SWBT suggests that Issue 2056 does have application to traffic on the FGC common trunks. SWBT states that Issue 2056 only states a preference for the exchange of 1101 records, but does "not purport to mandate changes or override existing state settlement arrangements". Therefore, SWBT suggests that its position continuing to insist on the exchange of 92 originating records is not at odds with the Commission Order directing implementation of Issue 2056, which contains a preference for industry standard category 1 I records.

4. Verizon makes similar suggestion. Verizon cites the former PTC position statement indicating that Issue 2056 applies to traffic exchanged between service providers "that have agreed" to implement meet point billing according to MECAB guidelines.

5. With all due respect to SWBT and Verizon, the MITG still believes the concerns it expressed in its May 14 Response are accurate concerns, and that it will be

necessary for the Commission to provide direction to the parties. Until that is done, there will be a dispute as to what the Commission intended for traffic placed on the FGC common trunks-the trunks for which this docket was created. The MITG does not believe that the Commission intended small ILECs to continue to be prejudiced by the terms of "agreements" or "arrangements" they are not party to, and have had no opportunity to participate in the development of. Instead the MITG believes the Commission intended to direct the implementation of the Issue 2056 preferred industry standard category 11 record systems to be utilized, along with the overarching principles of Issue 2056.

6. The MITG believes the Commission intended for the OBF Issue 2056 principles to be uniformly applied in Missouri, to all carriers and all traffic placed on the FGC common trunks. Only a uniform solution makes sense. Only a uniform solution will preclude future disputes such as that this docket has considered for several years.

7. The overarching principles contained in Issue 2056 that the MITG believed the Commission relied upon in directing implementation of Issue 2056 were the rights of carriers to measure and record and bill from their own recordings, to do so in the industry standard category 11 record format, and to resort to alternative record sources only where necessary. The former PTC's position allowing them to negotiate agreements with recording location, record creation, and record exchange that deviate from those overarching principles does not lend itself to a uniform solution.

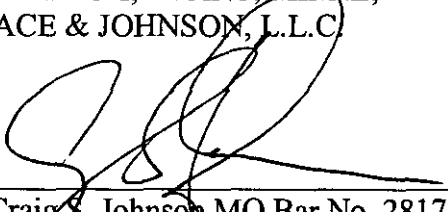
8. This Commission has already directed the former PTCs to provide former SCs with category 11 records.

9. In their agreements with CLECs, the former PTCs have-and apparently want to continue--to negotiate agreements calling for the exchange of category 92 records created at an originating switch. These agreements then require that the CLECs are responsible for delivering these originating 92 records to the terminating small ILECs, and the CLECs are responsible for paying the small ILECs pursuant to those records. Allowing the former PTCs to continue will preclude the small ILECs from the opportunity to negotiate for the principles and record exchanges called for by Issue 2056. It is the belief of the MITG that some former PTCs are going to some length to place any and all traffic possible on the FGC common trunks, so as to maximize the originating 92 record exchange system that puts the former PTC in the position of gatekeeper of records.

10. In conclusion, the MITG reiterates that a decision from the Commission as to whether it intended to direct implementation of those excerpts from Issue 2056 preferring a standard and uniform category 11 record system, as Issue 2056 is believed by the MITG to prefer, or whether it intended to direct implementation of those excerpts of Issue 2056 suggesting different negotiated arrangements, such as the former PTC 92 record agreements, will be necessary at some point in this docket.

11. The MITG stands by its May 14 Response to the Staff Report of May 7. The MITG respectfully requests that the Commission establish some type of procedure to visit this issue. In the absence of such a procedure, the "implementation" and "efficacy" reports the Commission directed Staff to file in its December 13, 2001 Order Directing Implementation of Issue 2056 will do nothing to further this docket from its status on December 13, 2001.

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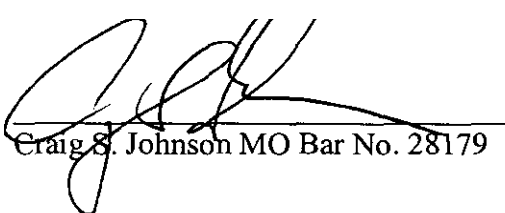
By 

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ATTORNEYS FOR the MITG Group

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned does hereby certify that a true and accurate copy of the foregoing was mailed, via U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, this 30 day of May, 2002, to all attorneys of record in this proceeding.


Craig S. Johnson MO Bar No. 28179