

B✓
CE
PO
S

3/2

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Investigation)
into the Earnings of Oregon Farmers)
Mutual Telephone Company.)
CASE NO. TR-98-348

REVISED

ORDER ESTABLISHING CASE,
GIVING NOTICE, AND SETTING INTERVENTION PERIOD

The Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) filed a Motion to Open Docket on February 13, 1998, asking the Commission to approve a Stipulation and Agreement between Staff and Oregon Farmers Mutual Telephone Company (Oregon Farmers).

Staff stated that it conducted a per book review of Oregon Farmers' earnings based upon the 12 months ending December 31, 1996, updated for known and measurable changes occurring during 1997. Staff and Oregon Farmers executed a Stipulation and Agreement (Attachment A to this order) resolving the issues surrounding Staff's audit. The agreement calls for a reduction in Oregon Farmers' gross intrastate revenues by approximately \$22,436 annually. The reduction would be accomplished by changes in certain intrastate rates which are more specifically set forth in Attachment A to the Stipulation. The parties also agreed that beginning January 1, 1998, Oregon Farmers would be authorized to accrue depreciation expense based on the depreciation rates set forth in Attachment B to the Stipulation. The Stipulation further states that Oregon Farmers will provide draft tariff sheets incorporated the rate changes to Staff no later than March 6. The agreement states that none of the signatories have approved or acquiesced in any particular ratemaking or procedural principle

or method of cost determination or allocation.

The Commission finds that the motion to open a case to address the Stipulation and Agreement should be granted. The Commission cautions, however, that while Oregon Farmers may submit draft tariff sheets to Staff as required by the Stipulation, it should not submit tariff sheets containing an effective date, since such a submission would be premature because the Commission has not yet determined the merits of the Stipulation.

The Commission finds that interested persons should receive notice and an opportunity to intervene. The Commission's Records Department should send a copy of this order to the County Commissioners of Holt County, and to the mayor of every city located in that county. The Records Department should also send a copy of this order to all certificated telecommunications carriers in Missouri. Any party wishing to intervene must file a written application to intervene no later than March 30, 1998 with the Secretary of the Missouri Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. Copies of the application must be served on:

W.R. England, III
Brydon, Swearngen & England, P.C.
312 E. Capitol
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0456

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the Motion to Open Docket filed by the Commission's Staff on February 13, 1998 is granted.
2. That parties wishing to intervene shall file an application to intervene no later than March 30, 1998.

3. That the Commission's Records Department shall give notice as described in this order.

4. That this order shall become effective on March 2, 1998.

BY THE COMMISSION



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Elaine E. Bensavage, Regulatory Law Judge,
by delegation of authority pursuant to
4 CSR 240-2.120(1) (November 30, 1995)
and Section 386.240, RSMo 1994.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 2nd day of March, 1998.