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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Southwestern Bell)
Telephone Company's Tariff Revisions)
Designed to Introduce a LATA-wide)
Extended Area Service (EAS) Called)
Local Plus, and a One-Way COS Plan.)

Case No. TT-98-351

ORDER GRANTING INTERVENTION

On February 5, 1998, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBT) submitted proposed revisions to its Local Exchange Tariff, P.S.C. Mo. No. 24, which includes tariff changes associated with the offering of a local one-way Community Optional Service (COS) plan and the introduction of a LATA-wide Extended Area Service (EAS) plan. Requests for suspension of the tariff sheets were filed by COMPTel-Mo, AT&T Communications of the Southwest, Inc., and the Mid-Missouri Group of Local Exchange Companies, and on February 25 the Commission issued an Order Granting Intervention, Suspending Tariff, and Setting Early Prehearing Conference.

The Small Telephone Company Group¹ (STCG) filed an Application to Intervene and Motion to Suspend Tariff on February 20. The STCG raised many of the same concerns found in the other motions to suspend. Because

¹For purposes of this proceeding, the small telephone company group is comprised of ALLTEL Missouri Inc.; BPS Telephone Company; Cass County Telephone Company; Citizens Telephone Company of Higginsville, Missouri, Inc.; Craw-Kan Telephone Cooperative, Inc.; Ellington Telephone Company; Farber Telephone Company; Goodman Telephone Company, Inc.; Granby Telephone Company; Grand River Mutual Telephone Corporation; Green Hills Telephone Corp.; Holway Telephone Company; Iamo Telephone Company; Kingdom Telephone Company; KLM Telephone Company; Lathrop Telephone Company; Le-Ru Telephone Company; Mark Twain Rural Telephone Company; McDonald County Telephone Company; Miller Telephone Company; New Florence Telephone Company; New London Telephone Company; Orchard Farm Telephone Company, Oregon Farmers Mutual Telephone Co.; Ozark Telephone Company; Rock Port Telephone Company; Seneca Telephone Company; Steelville Telephone Exchange, Inc.; and Stoutland Telephone Company.

the Commission has already suspended the tariff sheets, it is not necessary to list the STCG's concerns.² The STCG states that its expertise and perspective on the provision of telecommunications services will aid the Commission in resolving the issues related to this proceeding, and that its intervention and participation will serve the public interest.

GTE Midwest Incorporated (GTE) filed an application for participation without intervention on March 5. GTE states that it is a local exchange carrier authorized to provide local exchange, access, and intraLATA toll services within the State of Missouri, and as such, GTE has an interest in any decision by the Commission with regard to local calling plans and LATA-wide EAS plans which is different from that of the general public. GTE adds that it does not take a position on the issue at this time.

MCI Telecommunications Corporation (MCI) filed an application to intervene on March 10. MCI states that it seeks to intervene in this proceeding because the Commission's decision may affect MCI's interest as a provider of interexchange telecommunications services in competition with the services of SWBT which would be subject to the proposed changes, and as such its interests are different from those of the general public. In addition, MCI maintains that its intervention in this proceeding will be in the public interest because of its expertise in the telecommunications industry. MCI adds that it opposes the proposed changes at this time, for the reasons stated in the various motions which resulted in the suspension of the tariffs.

The Commission has reviewed the applications and finds that they are in substantial compliance with Commission rules regarding intervention

²Since the tariff sheets have already been suspended, it is also unnecessary to rule on Staff's Motion to Suspend, which was filed on February 25.

and participation without intervention, and that the applicants each have an interest in this matter which is different from that of the general public. The Commission concludes that the requests for intervention and participation without intervention should be granted. The Commission notes that because this case involves a tariff filing, no formal intervention period was established. The Commission also notes that all of the applications were filed prior to the prehearing conference which was held on March 17, and representatives from the applicants were present to participate in the prehearing conference and the preparation of the proposed procedural schedule.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That Stephen F. Morris has complied with 4 CSR 240-2.040, and will be permitted to appear before the Commission *pro hac vice* on behalf of MCI Telecommunications Corporation.

2. That the Small Telephone Company Group, GTE Midwest Incorporated, and MCI Telecommunications Corporation are granted intervention in this proceeding.

3. That this order shall become effective on March 27, 1998.

BY THE COMMISSION

Dale Hardy Roberts

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 27th day of March, 1998.

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COMMISSION COUNSEL
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION