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ORDER GRANTING PARTICIPATION

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The following parties filed timely applications for participation:

The Small Telephone Company Group

(BPS Telephone Company, Cass County Telephone Company, Citizens Telephone Company of Higginsville, Missouri, Inc., Craw-Kan Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Ellington Telephone Company, Grand River Mutual Telephone Corporation, Green Hills Telephone Corporation, Holway Telephone Company, Iamo Telephone Company, Kingdom Telephone Company, KLM Telephone Company, Lathrop 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

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Mutual Telephone Company, Steelville Telephone Exchange, Inc., and Stoutland Telephone Company);

Fidelity Telephone Company; and

Bourbeuse Telephone Company.

The Small Telephone Company Group, Fidelity Telephone Company and Bourbeuse Telephone Company (collectively the Applicants) all stated that they have concerns about how the proposed agreement might affect their operations and their existing relationships with Sprint and Bell Wireless. More specifically, the Applicants stated they are concerned with the effect, if any, the proposed interconnection agreement with a wireless carrier may have upon agreements between wireless carriers and other local exchange companies in light of the Commission's recent ruling in United Telephone Company of Missouri's Complaint Against Southwestern Bell Telephone Company for Failure to Pay Terminating Access for Cellular-Originated Calls Terminating in United's Territory, Case No. TC-96-112, and Southwestern Bell Telephone Company's recent tariff filing designed to revise its Wireless Carrier Interconnection Service, Case No. TT-97-524. The Applicants are concerned with their inability to identify or measure traffic terminated in their exchanges by the wireless carriers. The Applicants state their participation would be in the public interest because of their expertise and experience in providing telecommunications services in Missouri.

The Commission has reviewed the joint application and finds that it is in substantial compliance with Commission rules regarding 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 all these requests for participation should be granted.

No requests for hearing were submitted on or before January 2. The Commission finds that a hearing is not necessary to resolve the issues in this case. State ex rel. Rex Deffenderfer Enterprises, Inc. v. Public Service Commission, 776 S.W.2d 494, 496 (Mo. App. 1989). The Commission finds that the comments addressing whether this agreement meets the federal standards for approval of interconnection agreements must be filed no later than February 3.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the following parties are granted participation without intervention in this case in accordance with 4 CSR 240-2.075(5):

The Small Telephone Company Group

(BPS Telephone Company, Cass County Telephone Company, Citizens Telephone Company of Higginsville, Missouri, Inc., Craw-Kan Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Ellington Telephone Company, Grand River Mutual Telephone Corporation, Green Hills Telephone Corporation, Holway Telephone Company, Iamo Telephone Company, Kingdom Telephone Company, KLM Telephone Company, Lathrop 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 Company, Steelville Telephone Exchange, Inc., and Stoutland Telephone Company);

Fidelity Telephone Company; and

Bourbeuse Telephone Company.

2. That comments addressing whether this agreement meets the federal standards for approval of interconnection agreements must be filed no later than February 3, 1998.

3. That United Telephone Company of Missouri d/b/a Sprint and Southwestern Bell Wireless, Inc., shall file an amendment to the interconnection agreement reflecting United Telephone Company of Missouri d/b/a Sprint's change of corporate name to Sprint Missouri, Inc.

4. That this order shall be effective on January 13, 1998.

BY THE COMMISSION



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Kevin F. Hennessey, 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 13th day of January, 1998.

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COMMISSION COUNSEL
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION