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**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office
in Jefferson City on the 16th
day of December, 1997.

In the Matter of AT&T Communications of the South-)
west, Inc.'s Petition for Arbitration Pursuant to)
Section 252(b) of the Telecommunications Act of) Case No. TO-97-63
1996 to Establish an Interconnection Agreement)
Between AT&T Communications of the Southwest, Inc.)
and GTE Midwest Incorporated.)
)

ORDER GRANTING EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE AGREEMENT

The Commission directed AT&T Communications of the Southwest, Inc. (AT&T) and GTE Midwest Incorporated (GTE) to file an executed interconnection agreement by December 5, 1997. These parties filed a Joint Motion for Extension of Time to File Agreement on December 5. AT&T and GTE stated that negotiations are taking place between them on a national level, involving interconnection agreements in 16 states. The parties state that they have had difficulty in arranging meeting times for their subject matter experts and are not able to produce an agreement by the required filing date. Further meetings are scheduled for December 15 and the parties asked the Commission to permit an extension of time until March 31, 1998, with a status filing on January 30.

The Commission has considered the request and finds it is appropriate. The Commission wants to encourage these parties to arrive at a mutually acceptable agreement and will grant the requested extension of time.

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IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the Joint Motion for Extension of Time to File Agreement filed by AT&T Communications of the Southwest, Inc. and GTE Midwest Incorporated on December 5, 1997, is granted.

2. That the parties shall file a status report on January 30, 1998, advising the Commission of the progress of their negotiations.

3. That the parties shall file an executed interconnection agreement in compliance with the Commission's prior orders no later than March 31, 1998.

4. That this order shall become effective on December 16, 1997.

BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dale Hardy Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Lumpe, Ch., Crumpton, Drainer
and Murray, CC., concur.

Wickliffe, Deputy Chief Regulatory Law Judge