STATE OF MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

At a session of the Public Service Commission held at its office in Jefferson City on the 26th day of February, 1998.

In the Matter of the Request of Southwestern

Bell Telephone Company and Rock Port Telephone

Company to Transfer South Hamburg Exchange to

Rock Port Telephone Company.

Case No. TM-97-528

ORDER SETTING LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING

On December 22, 1997, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) filed a Memorandum that recommended approval of the proposed sale of assets from Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBT) to Rock Port Telephone Company (Rock Port) without further delay. On December 23, the Office of the Public Counsel (OPC) filed Comments suggesting that the Commission should not approve the proposed sale until it has either conducted a local public hearing or a survey of customers of the South Hamburg Exchange. OPC did not propose a location or time for a local public hearing. Staff's Memorandum and OPC's Comments discussed the fact that customer notices were mailed by Rock Port to all 65 of the customers of the South Hamburg Exchange and that 17 customers had responded - 10 positively and 7 negatively.

The Commission agrees that a local public hearing should be scheduled because of the interest expressed by customers of the South Hamburg Exchange in the issues involved in the asset sale. The Commission will hold a public hearing in Rock Port, Missouri, to receive comments from interested members of the public.

The Commission's Information Officer should send notice of the hearing to the publisher of each newspaper located in Atchison County, and

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Exchange customers. In addition, the Information Officer should provide similar notice to any radio and television stations located within the vicinity of the South Hamburg Exchange. The Commission's Records Department should serve a copy of this order on the County Commission of Atchison County and the mayor of each municipality within Atchison County.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the suggestion for a local public hearing filed by the Office of the Public Counsel is adopted, and the time and location for the hearing shall be as follows:

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 1998

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Memorial Building
Main Street
Rock Port, MO 64482

- 2. That the Records Department and the Information Office of the Commission shall serve copies of this order and provide notice as described in this order.
- 3. That anyone with special needs as addressed by the Americans With Disabilities Act should contact the Missouri Public Service Commission as soon as possible at one of the following numbers: Consumer Services Hotline 1-800-392-4211 or TDD Hotline 1-800-829-7541.
 - 4. That this order shall become effective on February 26, 1998.

BY THE COMMISSION

Hole Hold Roberts

(SEAL)

Dale Hardy Roberts Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

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

Randles, Regulatory Law Judge

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