## BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

# OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of GTE	)	
Communications Corporation Company for	)	Case No. TO-99-271
Approval of Interconnection Agreement	)	
Under the Telecommunications Act of 1996.	}	

### ORDER DIRECTING NOTICE

## AND MAKING SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY A PARTY

On December 15, 1998, GTE Communications Corporation (GTECC) filed an application with the Commission for approval of an interconnection agreement with Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBT) under the provisions of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act). The applicant states that there are no unresolved issues and that the agreement complies with Section 252(e) of the Act in that it is not discriminatory to non-party carriers and is consistent with the public interest. The applicant requests expeditious approval of the agreement.

The Act provides that an interconnection agreement must be approved unless the state commission finds that the agreement discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement, or that implementation of the agreement is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity. 47 U.S.C. § 252(e).

Although SWBT is a party to the agreement, it did not join in the application. The Commission will make SWBT a party to this case.

The Commission finds that proper persons should be allowed 20 days from the issuance of this order to file a motion for hearing or an application to participate without intervention. Participation may be permitted for the limited purpose of filing comments addressing whether federal standards for this agreement meets the approval interconnection agreements. The requirement of a hearing is met when an opportunity to be heard has been provided and no proper party has requested the opportunity to present evidence. State ex rel. Rex Deffenderfer Enterprises, Inc. v. Public Service Commission, 776 S.W.2D 494, 496 (Mo. App. 1989).

Section 252(e)(4) of the Act provides that if the Commission has not approved an agreement within ninety days after submission, the agreement shall be deemed approved. Therefore, the Commission will proceed with this case expeditiously and, if there are no requests for a hearing, relief may be granted based on the verified petition. The Commission finds that notice of this application should be sent to all interexchange and local exchange telecommunications companies.

#### IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

- 1. That the Records Department of the Commission shall send notice to all interexchange and local exchange telecommunications companies.
- 2. That any party wishing to request a hearing or to participate without intervention in this matter shall file an application no later than January 11, 1999 with:

Secretary of the Missouri Public Service Commission Post Office Box 360 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

### and send copies to:

Charles Brent Stewart
Attorney for GTE Communications Corporation
Stewart and Keevil, L.L.C.
1001 Cherry Street, Suite 302
Columbia, MO 65201-7931

Paul G. Lane
Leo J. Bub
Anthony K. Conroy
Katherine C. Swaller
Attorneys for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company
One Bell Center, Room 3518
St. Louis, Missouri 63101

Office of the Public Counsel Post Office Box 7800 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

- 3. That Southwestern Bell Telephone Company is made a party to this case.
- 4. That the Staff of the Commission shall file a memorandum advising either approval or rejection of this agreement and giving the reasons therefor no later than February 26, 1999.

5. That this order shall become effective on January 4, 1999.

BY THE COMMISSION

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Dale Hardy Roberts

Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Lewis R. Mills, Deputy Chief 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 22nd day of December, 1998.

