

FILED

APR 23 2002

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

**Missouri Public
Service Commission**

In the Matter of the Joint Application of GTE)
Midwest Inc., d/b/a Verizon Midwest and)
CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC for 1) Authority to)
Transfer and Acquire Part of Verizon Midwest's)
Franchise, Facilities or System Located in the)
State of Missouri; 2) For Issuance of Certificate)
of Service Authority to CenturyTel of Missouri,)
LLC; 3) To Designate CenturyTel of Missouri,)
LLC as Subject to Regulation as a Price Cap)
Company; and 4) To Designate CenturyTel of)
Missouri, LLC as a Telecommunications Carrier)
Eligible to Receive Federal Universal Service)
Support.)

Case No. TM-2002-232

**SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY'S
MOTION TO BE EXCUSED FROM HEARING**

Southwestern Bell Telephone Company¹ respectfully requests that its counsel be excused from the hearing in this case, which has been scheduled for Thursday, April 25, 2002. In support of this Motion, Southwestern Bell states:

1. Southwestern Bell understands that most of the parties in this case have reached a Stipulation resolving all issues in this case and that the purpose of the April 25 hearing is to present the Stipulation and pre-filed testimony to the Missouri Public Service Commission.

2. Southwestern Bell and the parties to this transaction have worked cooperatively to resolve the issue of concern to Southwestern Bell, which related to the level of access rates that would be charged by the surviving company. This resolution was embodied in the Stipulation that has been filed with the Commission. Because Southwestern Bell was not a party to the discussions concerning the other issues addressed by this Stipulation, Southwestern Bell did not have sufficient familiarity with the other issues to join in the Stipulation. However,


Southwestern Bell, through a separate filing, has indicated to the Commission that its concerns with the transaction have been addressed and that it had no opposition to the Commission accepting and approving the Joint Stipulation in this case.

3. If excused from the hearing, Southwestern Bell understands that it will be waiving its right to present evidence and to cross-examine witnesses at the hearing. However, if a briefing schedule is ordered, Southwestern Bell reserves the right to file a brief to address any new issue that might arise at the hearing.

WHEREFORE, Southwestern Bell respectfully requests that its counsel be excused from attending the April 25, 2002 hearing scheduled for this case.

Respectfully submitted,

SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE, L.P.

BY:  / TJ
PAUL G. JANE #27011
LEO J. BUB #34326
ANTHONY K. CONROY #35199
MIMI B. MACDONALD #37606
Attorneys for Southwestern Bell Telephone, L.P.
One SBC Center, Room 3518
St. Louis, Missouri 63101
314-235-2508 (Telephone)
314-247-0014 (Facsimile)
leo.bub@sbc.com

¹ Southwestern Bell Telephone, L.P., d/b/a Southwestern Bell Telephone Company is referred to in this filing as either "Southwestern Bell" or "SWBT".

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Copies of this document were served on the following parties by first-class, postage prepaid, U.S. Mail or hand-delivery on April 23, 2002.


Leo J. Bub

DAN JOYCE
MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
PO BOX 360
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65102

SHELDON K. STOCK
GREENSFELDER, HEMKER & GALE, P.C.
2000 EQUITABLE BUILDING
10 SOUTH BROADWAY
ST. LOUIS, MO 63102-1774

MICHAEL F. DANDINO
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL
PO BOX 7800
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65102

J. STEVE WEBER
AT&T COMMUNICATIONS
OF THE SOUTHWEST, INC.
101 W. MCCARTY, SUITE 216
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

JAMES M. FISCHER
LARRY W. DORITY
FISCHER & DORITY P.C.
101 MADISON, SUITE 400
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

REBECCA B. DECOOK
AT&T COMMUNICATIONS
OF THE SOUTHWEST, INC.
1875 LAWRENCE ST., STE. 1405
DENVER, CO 80202

WILLIAM R. ENGLAND III
SONDRA MORGAN
BRYDON, SWEARENGEN & ENGLAND
PO BOX 456
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65102