

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

In the Matter of the Joint Application of )  
Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone Company )  
and Modern Telecommunications Company ) Case No. TM-2002-465  
for Approval to Merge Modern Telecommunications)  
Company and Northeast Missouri Rural )  
Telephone Company )

**SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY'S  
APPLICATION TO INTERVENE**

Southwestern Bell Telephone Company<sup>1</sup> pursuant to Section 386.420 RSMo (2000) and 4 CSR 240-2.075, respectfully seeks to intervene in this proceeding. In support of its application, Southwestern Bell states:

1. Southwestern Bell is a "local exchange telecommunications company" and a "public utility," and is duly authorized to provide "telecommunications service" within the State of Missouri as each of those phrases are defined in Section 386.020 RSMo (2000).<sup>2</sup>

Southwestern Bell's principal Missouri office is located at One SBC Center, 35<sup>th</sup> Floor, St. Louis, Missouri 63101.

2. All correspondence, pleadings, orders, decisions and communications regarding this proceeding should be sent to:

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<sup>1</sup> Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, L.P., d/b/a Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, will be referred to in this pleading as "Southwestern Bell" or "SWBT."

<sup>2</sup> All statutory cites are to the Missouri Revised Statutes.

3. On March 27, 2002, Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone Company and Modern Telecommunications Company filed their Joint Application requesting the Missouri Public Service Commission to grant authority to merge Modern Telephone Company with and into Northeast Missouri Telephone Company.

4. Southwestern Bell seeks to intervene in this proceeding because it will be directly impacted by the Commission's decision on this Joint Application. Southwestern Bell is one of the largest (if not the largest) access customer of both Northeast and Modern and is concerned with the level of access rates the merged company will impose after the transaction is completed. In order to protect its interests, Southwestern Bell believes it necessary for it to participate in the Commission's review of Northeast and Modern's Joint Application.

5. Southwestern Bell's interests as one of Northeast and Modern's largest access customers differ from those of the general public. No other party to this proceeding will adequately protect Southwestern Bell's interest.

6. Granting of this intervention will be in the public interest because Southwestern Bell will bring to this proceeding its expertise and experience as a telecommunications provider.

WHEREFORE, Southwestern Bell respectfully requests the Commission to grant this Application to Intervene.

Respectfully submitted,

SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY

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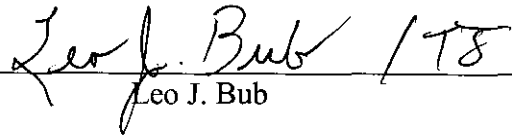
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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

Copies of this document were served on the following parties by first-class, postage prepaid, U.S. Mail or hand-delivery on April 26, 2002.

  
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