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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 27th day of June, 1997.

In the Matter of the Application of Local Line)		
America, Inc., for a Certificate of Service)		
Authority to Provide Local Telecommunications)	Case No.	TA-97-251
Services to the Public in the State of Missouri.)		
)		

ORDER DENYING REQUEST FOR TELEPHONE TESTIMONY

The parties to this case filed a Stipulation and Agreement on May 20, 1997, for Commission approval. The Commission scheduled a stipulation hearing for July 16 at which the parties may make presentations in favor of the stipulation and respond to Commission questions.

Local Line America, Inc. (Local Line) filed a Request Regarding Stipulation Presentation Hearing on June 9, asking that the Commission permit Local Line to make a witness available at the hearing by telephone rather than in person. Local Line argued that although the questions and answers at a stipulation presentation hearing are on the record, the respondents are not sworn nor do they take the witness stand. No responses were filed to the motion.

The Commission finds that making a witness available by telephone is not adequate and the motion shall be denied. The Commission has on occasion sworn witnesses to answer questions regarding stipulations. Even if the stipulation in this case were totally routine and uncontroversial on its face, the Commission would never commit itself before the fact to receiving unsworn testimony.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

- 1. That the Request Regarding Stipulation Presentation Hearing filed by Local Line America, Inc. on June 9, 1997, is denied.
 - 2. That this order shall become effective on the date hereof.

BY THE COMMISSION

Cecil July 10

Cecil I. Wright Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

Crumpton, Drainer, Murray and Lumpe, CC., concur. Zobrist, Chm., absent.

ALJ: Wickliffe