



Commissioners

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December 22, 1999

GORDON L. PERSINGER
Acting Executive Director
Director, Research and Public Affairs

WESS A. HENDERSON
Director, Utility Operations

ROBERT SCHALLENBERG
Director, Utility Services

DONNA M. KOLILIS
Director, Administration

DALE HARDY ROBERTS
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

DANA K. JOYCE
General Counsel

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
Missouri Public Service Commission
P. O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

RE: TM-2000-343

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing in the above-captioned case are an original and fourteen (14) conformed copies of a **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**.

This filing has been mailed or hand-delivered this date to all counsel of record.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Cliff E. Shodgrass
Senior Counsel
(573) 751-3966
(573) 751-9285 (Fax)

CS/jb
Enclosure
cc: Counsel of Record

FILED³

DEC 22 1999

Missouri Public
Service Commission

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Joint Application of)
Madison Dearborn Capital Partners III,)
L.P. and Dakota Services Limited for)
Approval of Transfer of Control and)
Name Change)

Case No. TM-2000-343

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Staff") and for its recommendation states:

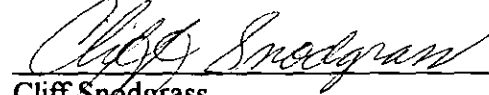
(1) In the attached Memorandum, which is labeled Appendix A, the Staff recommends that the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") issue an Order which:

- A. Prospectively approves the merger between Dakota Services Ltd. with @link Merger Sub, Inc. (Dakota Services Ltd. survives.)
- B. Approves the name change of Dakota Services Ltd. to @link Networks, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,

DANA K. JOYCE

General Counsel

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Cliff Snodgrass", written over a horizontal line.

Cliff Snodgrass

Senior Counsel

Illinois Bar No. 3123645

Attorney for the

Missouri Public Service Commission

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Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed or hand-delivered to all counsel of record as shown on the attached service list this 22nd day of December, 1999.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Cliff Snodgrass", written over a horizontal line.

**Service List for
Case No. TM-2000-343
December 22, 1999**

Office of the Public Counsel
P.O. Box 7800
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Mary Ann (Garr) Young
Attorney at Law
William D. Steinmeier, P.C.
2031 Tower Drive
Jefferson City, MO 65109

MEMORANDUM

To: Missouri Public Service Commission Official Case File
Tariff File No. 0000487 Case Nos. TM-2000-343 & TO-2000-344

From: Tom Solt ^{TSS}
Telecommunications Department ^{BV}

Wm Henderson 12-21-99
Utility Operations Division/Date

Wm K. Nass 12/21/99
General Counsel's Office/Date

Subject: Joint Application for Approval of Merger and Name Change and Approval of Tariff

Date: December 21, 1999

P.S.C. MO Tariff No. 1, Original Sheets 1-15

On November 24, 1999, Madison Dearborn Capital Partners III, L.P. (MDCP) and Dakota Services Limited (Dakota), filed a Joint Application (Application) asking the Commission to approve, *nunc pro tunc*, the transfer of control (merger) of Dakota, a certificated competitive interexchange and non-switched local exchange carrier, with @link Merger Sub, Inc., controlled by MDCP, and a name change to @link Networks, Inc. d/b/a At Link Networks, Inc. (@link). Concurrently, proposed tariff sheets were filed to replace references to Dakota with @link with an effective date of December 24, 1999. On December 7, 1999, at the request of the Telecommunications Department Staff (Staff), @link extended the effective date of the proposed tariff sheets to December 31. On December 10, 1999, @link submitted substitute sheets to correct minor errors in the text of its previously filed sheets. On December 17, again at Staff's request, @link extended the effective date of the tariff sheets to January 5, 2000. On December 20, 1999, @link submitted substitute sheets making additional minor changes to its previously filed sheets.

MDCP and @link (Applicants) state that notification was filed with the Commission on June 21, 1999, to inform the Commission of the merger and name change because they believed that no approval for the transactions was necessary. They further state that @link currently has no Missouri customers and therefore, there was no effect upon Missouri customers. Applicants also state that there should be no impact on tax revenues of any political subdivision in Missouri, and that there are no pending or final judgements against them involving service to customers or rates charged, and that the requested approval will serve the public interest.

The Staff has reviewed the Application and proposed tariff sheets, as substituted, and believes the merger should be approved prospectively and the application and proposed tariff sheets, as substituted, should be approved. Staff is not aware of any other filings that affect, or are affected by, the instant filings.