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FILED

MAR 17 2004

Missouri Public
Service Commission

March 15, 2004

ROBERT J. MANN
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OF COUNSEL

WILLIAM J. BURRELL
1921-1994

Secretary of the Public Service Commission
PO Box 360
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0360

Re: Southwest Communications, Inc.

Dear Sirs:

Enclosed please find the Answer and Statement of Compliance for our client, Southwest Communications, Inc. If you have any further questions or request any further information, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

SEIGFREID, BINGHAM, LEVY,
SELZER & GEE, P.C.

By: 

Rod L. Eisenhauer

RLE:
Encl.

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

The Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission,)	
)	
Complainant,)	Case No. TC-2004-0382
v.)	
)	
Southwest Communications, Inc.,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

ANSWER AND NOTICE OF SATISFACTION

Respondent Southwest Communications, Inc., for its Answer and Notice of Satisfaction in response to the Complaint filed in this matter, states as follows:

General Allegations

1. Answering ¶ 1, Southwest Communications admits the averments therein, except that the correct name of Southwest Communications' registered agent is Seigfreid, Bingham, Levy, Selzer and Gee, P.C.

2. Answering ¶ 2, although the language as cited is not verbatim the language of RSMo. §386.90, Southwest Communications admits that the Commission may entertain a complaint as averred.

3. Answering ¶ 3, Southwest Communications admits the averments therein.

4. Answering ¶ 4, Southwest Communications is without sufficient information or knowledge to form a belief as to the validity of the citations therein. Southwest Communications admits that RSMo. §386.600 provides as averred.

Count I

5. Answering ¶¶ 5, 6 and 7, Southwest Communications admits the averments therein.

6. Answering ¶ 8, Southwest Communications denies the averments therein. Southwest Communications filed its 2002 Annual Report with the Commission on February 24, 2004. Further, Southwest Communications filed its 2003 Annual Report on that same date, 2 months before such filing was required.

7. Answering ¶ 9, Southwest Communications admits that it received the staff's letter of August 22, 2004, but denies that no response was ever provided as Southwest Communications filed its 2002 Annual Report with the Commission on February 24, 2004.

8. Answering ¶ 10, Southwest Communications admits that RSMo. §392.210.1 contains the language averred.

Affirmative Defenses

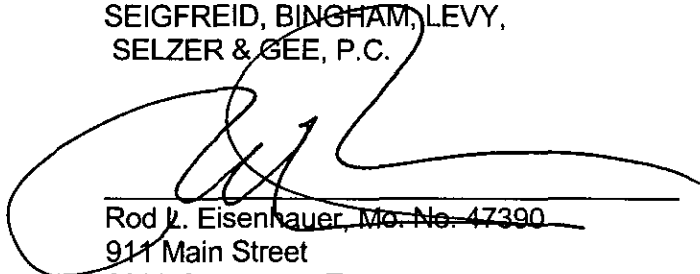
9. Southwest Communications has satisfied the requirements of RSMo. § 392.210 by filing its 2002 and 2003 annual reports on February 24, 2004.

10. Southwest Communications, in the calendar year 2003, received authorization to do business in no less than 25 states. Because of the overwhelming amount of paperwork accompanying the establishment of this new area, Southwest Communications erroneously failed to file its 2002 annual report with the Commission. This was not an attempt to subvert the Commissions' authority or avoid the filing requirement, simply an oversight.

WHEREFORE, because its 2002 and 2003 annual reports have been filed with the Commission, Respondent Southwest Communications requests that the Commission deny the general counsel's request to open a complaint procedure against Southwest Communications, that the Complaint filed by the general counsel's office be dismissed and that any statutory penalties which may be assessed against Southwest Communications be waived.

Respectfully submitted,

SEIGFREID, BINGHAM, LEVY,
SELZER & GEE, P.C.



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ATTORNEYS FOR SOUTHWEST
COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Certificate of Mailing

The undersigned hereby certifies that the above and foregoing was mailed, postage paid, by US Mail this 15th of March, 2004 to the following:

Bruce H. Bates
Attorney for the Staff of the
Missouri Public Commission
PO Box 360
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102



Attorney for Southwest Communications