

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

In the Matter of the Second Investigation)
into the State of Competition in the)
Exchanges of Southwestern Bell)
Telephone, L.P., d/b/a SBC Missouri)

Case No. TO-2005-0035

STAFF RESPONSE TO ORDER DIRECTING FILING

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission and for its response states:

1. On July 30, 2004, Southwestern Bell Telephone, L.P., d/b/a SBC Missouri, filed a motion asking the Commission to open a case to investigate the state of competition in the company's exchanges pursuant to Section 392.245.5, RSMo 2000. SBC Missouri also requested that the Commission classify as competitive SBC Missouri's access line and related services and operator/directory services that have not already received a competitive classification. The Commission conducted a hearing in this matter from January 31, 2005, through February 7, 2005.

2. During the 2005 legislative session and prior to the Commission making a decision in this case, the Missouri legislature passed Senate Bill 237, which significantly modifies the standards by which telecommunications services are considered competitive. Consequently, the Commission issued its Order of Abeyance on June 24, 2005. In its order the Commission determined that it was in the public interest to postpone making a decision in this case until after August 28, 2005, the date upon which Senate Bill 237 was expected to become effective.

3. On November 8, 2005, the Commission directed the parties to file pleadings addressing whether this case may now be closed.

4. On November 15, 2005, SBC Missouri filed its response which “concurrs that there is no need for this case to remain open and that it should be closed.”

5. The Staff concurs with SBC Missouri, the applicant in this case, that this case may now be closed.

Respectfully submitted,

DANA K. JOYCE
General Counsel

/s/ William K. Haas

William K. Haas
Deputy General Counsel
Missouri Bar No. 28701

Attorney for the Staff of the
Missouri Public Service Commission
P. O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-7510 (Telephone)
(573) 751-9285 (Fax)
william.haas@psc.mo.gov

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile or electronically mailed to all counsel of record this 17th day of November 2005.

/s/ William K. Haas

William K. Haas