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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 23rd day of April, 1996.

In the Matter of GTE Midwest Incorporated's Tariff)	
Designed to Change the Boundary Between O'Fallon and)	Case No. TT-96-3
St. Peters, Both GTE Midwest Incorporated Exchanges.)	
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ORDER APPROVING TARIFF CHANGING EXCHANGE BOUNDARIES

On April 4, 1996, GTE Midwest Incorporated (GTE) submitted a proposed tariff revision to change the boundary between the O'Fallon and St. Peters exchanges. GTE requested expedited treatment at that time and this case was docketed to address that request. The proposed tariff revision was originally assigned the tariff number 9600628. O'Fallon and St. Peters are both GTE exchanges located in the state of Missouri.

GTE's request states that the outside plant facilities from its St. Peters exchange for this area are becoming exhausted and GTE's Exchange Planning Group has recommended that GTE incorporate this area into the O'Fallon exchange. GTE further states that it is presently constructing a cable placement project from the O'Fallon central office for this portion of the O'Fallon exchange and that this cable reinforcement project would allow GTE to economically serve the entire West 70 Commerce Center which is currently in the St. Peters exchange. GTE has noted that no customers will be affected by this boundary change and, inasmuch as the construction has already been initiated, GTE requests expedited approval.

On April 18, 1996, the Telecommunications Department Staff (Staff) filed its memorandum in which it recommended approval of the tariff sheets as filed by GTE. Staff has stated that GTE is, in fact, currently in the process of installing a copper cable facility which will connect the O'Fallon central

office to several customer areas, and that incorporating these areas into the O'Fallon exchange and thus serving it via the new copper facility will enable GTE to economically provide service to this area. Staff asserts this is preferable to constructing additional trunks in the St. Peters exchange to replace the exhausted facilities. Staff has stated that GTE's officials indicated that construction of the copper facility should be complete on or about June 1, 1996. Staff has further noted that this modification will not affect any customers as there are currently no customers in the area to be annexed to the O'Fallon exchange area. In addition, the O'Fallon/St. Peters interexchange traffic is rated as local calling because both exchanges are in a metropolitan area. Therefore, customers in the West 70 Commerce Center area to be affected will be able to call both exchanges without incurring long distance charges.

Staff states that it does not object to the proposal. Further, Staff recommends expedited approval of the proposed tariff sheets. Lastly, Staff notes that it is not aware of any other filings which affect or which would be affected by this proposal.

The Commission has reviewed the proposed tariff sheets, the Staff memorandum and the entirety of the file, and makes the following findings of fact. The Commission finds that GTE has shown that the proposed boundary change is necessary under the circumstances and that no customers will be affected by the proposed boundary change. The Commission finds that the proposed change may be the most cost-effective change for the company and that these cost savings may ultimately inure to the benefit of the ratepayers. The Commission finds that the proposed tariff sheets are just and reasonable and the Commission will grant approval on an expedited basis.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the tariff sheets bearing tariff file number 9600628 and which were submitted by GTE Midwest Incorporated and docketed in this case on April 4, 1996, are hereby approved for service on and after April 25, 1996. The tariff sheets approved are:

PSC MO. NO. 7 1st Revised Sheet 291, Cancelling Original Sheet 291 1st Revised Sheet 292, Cancelling Original Sheet 292 1st Revised Sheet 347, Cancelling Original Sheet 347 1st Revised Sheet 348, Cancelling Original Sheet 348

2. That this order shall become effective on the 25th day of April, 1996.

BY THE COMMISSION

David L. Rauch Executive Secretary

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(S E A L)

Zobrist, Chm., Crumpton and Drainer, CC., concur.
McClure and Kincheloe, CC., absent.