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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

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In the Matter of the Application of Sprint)
Communications Company L.P. for a Certi-)
ficate of Service Authority to Provide) CASE NO. TA-97-269
Basic Local Telecommunications Service and)
Local Exchange Telecommunications Service.)

ORDER GRANTING INTERVENTION OUT OF TIME

Sprint Communications Company, L.P. (Sprint) filed an application on January 14, 1997, for certificates of service authority to provide basic local telecommunications service, and local exchange telecommunications service in the exchanges currently served by United Telephone Company of Missouri d/b/a Sprint (Sprint-United). On April 24 the Commission issued an order which granted intervention to Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBT) and GTE Midwest Incorporated (GTE).¹

On July 18, Sprint-United filed an application to intervene in this proceeding. Sprint-United explains that while the intervention deadline has passed, Sprint-United has been actively involved in discussions with the Staff of the Commission (Staff) concerning Sprint's application, and will likely be impacted by certain conditions placed upon the certification of Sprint to provide basic local and local exchange telecommunications service. As a result, Staff has requested that Sprint-United intervene and be a signatory to any stipulation and agreement. As such, Sprint-United states that it has a direct interest in this matter which is different from that of the general public, and the granting of Sprint-United's intervention will be in the public interest.

¹SWBT subsequently withdrew its intervention on May 9, and GTE withdrew its intervention on May 16.

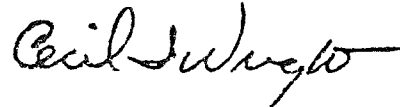
The Commission finds that because of the unique circumstances involved in this proceeding, it is both appropriate and advisable that Sprint-United be granted intervention out of time. All previous intervenors have withdrawn their interventions, so that the only parties remaining in the case, in addition to Sprint, are Staff and the Office of the Public Counsel (OPC). Given Sprint-United's relationship with Sprint, Staff's request that Sprint-United be a signatory to any stipulation is understandable. In addition, Sprint-United has apparently been involved in ongoing discussions with Staff concerning Sprint's application. Thus, Sprint-United's intervention in this proceeding will not prejudice any party nor cause any undue delay, and should be granted.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That United Telephone Company of Missouri d/b/a Sprint is granted intervention in this case.

2. That this order shall become effective on August 25, 1997.

BY THE COMMISSION



Cecil I. Wright
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

Elaine E. Bensavage, Administrative Law Judge,
by delegation of authority pursuant to
4 CSR 240-2.120(1) (November 30, 1995)
and Section 386.240, RSMo 1994.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 25th day of August, 1997.