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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Interconnection Agreement of)
GTE Midwest Incorporated and GTE Arkansas)
Incorporated and Ameritech Mobile Communications,) **Case No. TO-98-163**
Inc. on behalf of Cybertel Cellular Telephone)
Company and Cybertel RSA Cellular Ltd. Partnership)
d/b/a Ameritech Cellular Services.)
)

ORDER GRANTING PARTICIPATION

On October 15, 1997, GTE Midwest Incorporated (GTE Midwest), GTE Arkansas Incorporated (GTE Arkansas) and Ameritech Mobile Communications, Inc. (Ameritech) (acting on behalf of Cybertel Cellular Telephone Company (CCTC) and Cybertel RSA Cellular Ltd. Partnership d/b/a Ameritech Cellular Services (ACS)), filed an Application with the Commission for approval of an interconnection agreement between GTE Midwest, GTE Arkansas and ACS under the provisions of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act). The Commission issued an Order and Notice directing interested parties to file applications to participate and requests for hearing no later than November 10. The Commission ordered that only participation, and not intervention, would be permitted in this case.

The following parties filed timely applications for participation:

The Small Telephone Company Group

(BPS Telephone Company, Cass County Telephone Company, Citizens Telephone Company of Higginsville, Missouri, Inc., Craw-Kan Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Ellington Telephone Company, Grand River Mutual Telephone Corporation, Green Hills Telephone Corporation, Holway Telephone Company, Iamo Telephone Company, Kingdom Telephone Company, KLM Telephone Company, Lathrop Telephone Company, Mark Twain Rural Telephone Company, McDonald County Telephone Company, Miller Telephone Company, New Florence Telephone Company, New London Telephone

Company, Orchard Farm Telephone Company, Oregon Farmers Mutual Telephone Company, Steelville Telephone Exchange, Inc., and Stoutland Telephone Company);

Fidelity Telephone Company;

Bourbeuse Telephone Company; and

The Mid-Missouri Group of Local Exchange Telephone Companies

(Alma Telephone Company, Chariton Valley Telephone Corporation, Choctaw Telephone Company, Mid-Missouri Telephone Company, Mo-Kan Dial Inc., Modern Telecommunications Company, Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone Company and Peace Valley Telephone Company).

The Small Telephone Company Group, Fidelity Telephone Company and Bourbeuse Telephone Company all stated that they have concerns about how the proposed agreement might affect their operations and their existing relationships with GTE and Ameritech. More specifically , the Small Telephone Company Group, Fidelity Telephone Company and Bourbeuse Telephone Company all stated they are concerned with the effect, if any, the proposed interconnection agreement with a wireless carrier may have upon agreements between wireless carriers and other local exchange companies in light of the Commission's recent ruling in United Telephone Company of Missouri's Complaint Against Southwestern Bell Telephone Company for Failure to Pay Terminating Access for Cellular-Originated Calls Terminating in United's Territory, Case No. TC-96-112, and Southwestern Bell Telephone Company's recent tariff filing designed to revise its Wireless Carrier Interconnection Service, Case No. TT-97-524.

The Commission has reviewed the applications and finds that they are in substantial compliance with Commission rules regarding participation without intervention and that the applicants each have an interest in this matter which is different from that of the general public. The Commission concludes that all these requests for participation should be granted.

No requests for hearing were submitted on or before November 11. The Commission finds that a hearing is not necessary to resolve the issues in this case. State ex rel. Rex Deffenderfer Enterprises, Inc. v. Public Service Commission, 776 S.W.2d 494, 496 (Mo. App. 1989). The Commission finds that the comments addressing whether this agreement meets the federal standards for approval of interconnection agreements must be filed no later than December 15.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the following parties are granted participation without intervention in this case in accordance with 4 CSR 240-2.075(5):

The Small Telephone Company Group

(BPS Telephone Company, Cass County Telephone Company, Citizens Telephone Company of Higginsville, Missouri, Inc., Craw-Kan Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Ellington Telephone Company, Grand River Mutual Telephone Corporation, Green Hills Telephone Corporation, Holway Telephone Company, Iamo Telephone Company, Kingdom Telephone Company, KLM Telephone Company, Lathrop Telephone Company, Mark Twain Rural Telephone Company, McDonald County Telephone Company, Miller Telephone Company, New Florence Telephone Company, New London Telephone Company, Orchard Farm Telephone Company, Oregon Farmers Mutual Telephone Company, Steelville Telephone Exchange, Inc., and Stoutland Telephone Company);

Fidelity Telephone Company;

Bourbeuse Telephone Company; and

The Mid-Missouri Group of Local Exchange Telephone Companies

(Alma Telephone Company, Chariton Valley Telephone Corporation, Choctaw Telephone Company, Mid-Missouri Telephone Company, Mo-Kan Dial Inc., Modern Telecommunications Company, Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone Company and Peace Valley Telephone Company).

2. That the comments addressing whether this agreement meets the federal standards for approval of interconnection agreements must be filed no later than December 15, 1997.

3. That this order shall be effective on December 1, 1997.

BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dale Hardy Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Kevin F. Hennessey, Regulatory 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 1st day of December, 1997.