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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of Birch Telecom)
of Missouri, Inc., for a Certificate of Service)
Authority to Provide Basic Local Telecommunications) Case No. TA-97-372
Service and Exchange Access Telecommunications)
Services in the State of Missouri.)

ORDER DIRECTING SUPPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL DATA

Birch Telecom of Missouri, Inc. (BTM) applied to the Commission on March 7, 1997 for a certificate of service authority to provide basic local telecommunications services in Missouri under Sections 392.420 - .440, RSMo 1994, and Sections 392.410 and .450, RSMo Supp. 1996. BTM asked the Commission to classify it as a competitive company and waive certain statutes and rules as authorized by Sections 392.361 and 392.420, RSMo 1994.

The parties filed a Stipulation and Agreement on May 16. The Commission Staff (Staff) filed Suggestions in Support of the Stipulation and Agreement on May 16. BTM had submitted as Exhibit E to its Application a February 1, 1997 balance sheet for "Birch Telecom, Inc." In the Stipulation and Agreement, BTM asserted, and no party made a contrary assertion, that there is sufficient evidence from which the Commission should find and conclude that BTM possesses sufficient financial resources and abilities to provide basic local telecommunications service and exchange access service. However, the parties did not submit any financial information above and beyond the information submitted with BTM's Application. Furthermore, the Staff Suggestions did not contain any additional information.

The Commission finds that it is unable to determine whether BTM has sufficient financial resources and abilities to provide basic local telecommunications services, because the information submitted may relate to a company other than BTM and because the information submitted is not detailed enough to support a finding of sufficiency even if it does relate to BTM. The Commission further finds that the parties should be given an opportunity to present additional information to the Commission upon which to base its decision whether to grant the relief requested by BTM.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That Birch Telecom of Missouri, Inc. shall file additional information demonstrating that Birch Telecom of Missouri, Inc. has sufficient financial resources and abilities to provide basic local telecommunications services no later than October 6, 1997.

2. That Birch Telecom of Missouri, Inc. shall serve copies of the additional data submitted pursuant to Ordered paragraph 1 on all parties.

3. That responses to the additional financial data shall be filed no later than October 14, 1997.

4. That this order shall become effective on September 26, 1997.

BY THE COMMISSION

(S E A L)



**Cecil I. Wright
Executive Secretary**

Amy E. Randles, 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 26th day of September, 1997.