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MAR 23 2007

INFORMATION SHEET--SBC MISSOURI COMPETITIVE CLASSIFICATION REQUEST

Missouri Public
Service Commission

Who is the Missouri Public Service Commission?

It is the state government agency charged with ensuring that consumers receive safe, adequate and reliable utility services at a reasonable rate, from the privately-owned utilities that the Commission regulates. The Commission regulates over 1,000 investor-owned electric, natural gas, telephone, and water and sewer utilities in Missouri. In addition, the PSC regulates the state's rural electric cooperatives and municipally-owned natural gas utilities for operational safety. The PSC also regulates the manufacturers and dealers of manufactured homes and modular units. Utility services and infrastructure are essential to the economy of Missouri. Virtually every Missouri citizen receives some form of utility service (electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water or sewer) from a company regulated by the Commission.

What is the case before the Commission about?

Southwestern Bell Telephone, L.P., d/b/a SBC Missouri has asked the Commission to grant competitive status in 51 of its residential exchanges and 30 of its business exchanges in Missouri based on its assertion that carriers such as competitive local exchange carriers, wireless providers and Voice over Internet Providers offer services in direct competition with SBC Missouri. Under a new law (SB 237) that took effect on August 28, 2005, the Commission has 60 days, or until the end of October, to review this request and make a decision.

What is competitive classification and what happens if competitive classification is granted?

If competitive classification is granted, SBC Missouri would no longer be subject to price or rate regulation by the PSC. SBC Missouri would be permitted to raise or lower its telephone prices at its own discretion, subject to the marketplace. The PSC would continue to regulate quality of service, service termination and other billing issues. If competitive classification is granted for business services, those services can be negotiated individually with each business without Commission review or oversight.

What is the Commission seeking at this local public hearing?

The Commission is seeking input from the public on SBC Missouri's request for competitive classification in your exchange(s). The Commission is also seeking comment on the nature and amount of telephone competition in your exchange(s).

When will the Commission decide this case?

The new law requires the Commission to issue a decision within 60 days of this request for competitive classification. Under this provision of the law, the Commission will need to issue a decision by the end of October.

ATTN Exhibit No. 8
Case No(s) TO 2007-0053
Date 3-2-07 Rptr tu

What are the criteria for determining competitive classification under the 60-day filing?

SBC Missouri's request for competitive classification is the first request of its type under the 60-day process. The Commission will review the information presented by SBC Missouri, the PSC Staff, the Office of the Public Counsel and other interested entities as well as testimony received during the local public hearings in making its decision whether to approve SBC Missouri's request.

What will happen to my rates if competitive classification is granted?

Under the new law, companies such as SBC Missouri will be able to raise or lower telephone prices based on market conditions.

What is a local public hearing?

Local public hearings are designed to give **YOU**, the consumer, the opportunity to speak directly to the members of the Commission. These are the officials who will make the decision regarding SBC Missouri's request. You are invited to express your views, opinions and concerns to the Commission.

Will I be able to ask the Commissioners questions?

No. The Commissioners may have follow-up questions for you regarding your testimony as a customer of the Company; however, the Commissioners will not be able to respond to your questions. Please keep in mind that the Commissioners are acting as judges in holding this hearing to gather information, and that it would thus be inappropriate for them to respond to questions. You are invited and encouraged to address any questions that you may have to representatives of the PSC Staff, the Company and the Office of the Public Counsel either prior to (during the 30 minute general information session before the local public hearing) or following the formal portion of this local public hearing.

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THE LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING

**PSC TOLL-FREE CONSUMER SERVICES HOTLINE
1-800-392-4211**