

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office in
Jefferson City on the 7th day of July,
2005.

In the Matter of the Joint Application of IBFA)
Acquisition Company, LLC and American Farm)
Bureau, Inc. d/b/a The Farm Bureau Connection)
for Approval of the Acquisition of Certain Assets of)
The Farm Bureau Connection by IBFA Acquisition)
Company and for a Waiver)

Case No. XO-2005-0457

ORDER GRANTING APPLICATION TO TRANSFER ASSETS

Issue Date: July 7, 2005

Effective Date: July 17, 2005

On May 31, 2005, IBFA Acquisition Company, LLC, and American Farm Bureau, Inc. d/b/a The Farm Bureau Connection filed a Joint Application asking the Commission to approve a transaction whereby IBFA will acquire the Missouri assets of Farm Bureau Connection. The applicants also request a waiver of the subscriber authorization and verification requirements for the change of customers' interexchange carrier found in 4 CSR 240-33.150. After completion of the transfer of assets, Farm Bureau Connection will cease operations in this state. As a result, the applicants request that the certificates of service authority and tariffs granted to Farm Bureau Connection be canceled at that time.

Both IBFA and Farm Bureau Connection are competitive companies. Farm Bureau Connection currently holds certificates of service authority from this Commission to provide interexchange and basic local service. Farm Bureau Connection currently provides interexchange service in Missouri and has customers in this state for that service.

However, it has never filed a tariff to provide basic local service and, as a result, has no such customers in Missouri. After it acquires Farm Bureau Connection's assets, IBFA intends to provide interexchange and nonswitched local exchange telecommunications service in Missouri. The Commission granted IBFA a certificate of service authority to provide such services on June 27, in case number TA-2005-0451. IBFA initially requested authority to provide basic local exchange services as well, but withdrew that application on June 27.

On June 22, the Staff of the Commission filed its recommendation regarding the joint application. Staff concludes that the transfer of assets will not be detrimental to the public interest and recommends that the Commission approve the proposed transaction. Staff, however, recommends that the Commission not waive application of 4 CSR 240-33.150 as requested by the applicants. Staff explains that that regulation has recently been amended so that its notice provisions, which require that subscribers be notified of the change through a notice in their bills at least 30 days before the effective date of the change, will apply to this transaction. As a result, a waiver is no longer appropriate. Staff also indicates that Farm Bureau Connection's certificates should be canceled when the sale of assets is complete.

Although the Office of the Public Counsel is a party to this case, it has not filed a recommendation. No party has requested a hearing and the Commission will act based on the joint application and upon Staff's recommendation.

The Commission concludes that the proposed transfer of assets from one competitive company to another is consistent with the public interest, and that IBFA is qualified to provide service. The Commission further concludes that application of 4 CSR

240-33.150 should not be waived, and that IBFA shall be required to comply with the notice provisions of that regulation. IBFA will be directed to notify the Commission when the transaction is complete so that Farm Bureau Connection's certificates and tariff can be canceled. This case will remain open for that purpose.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the joint application of IBFA Acquisition Company, LLC, and American Farm Bureau, Inc. d/b/a The Farm Bureau Connection to transfer assets is granted.
2. That the request to waive application of 4 CSR 240-33.150 for purposes of the authorized transactions is denied.
3. That IBFA Acquisition Company, LLC is directed to inform the Commission when the authorized transactions are complete so that the Commission can cancel American Farm Bureau, Inc. d/b/a The Farm Bureau Connection's certificates of service authority and accompanying tariff.
4. That this order shall become effective on July 17, 2005.

BY THE COMMISSION



Colleen M. Dale
Secretary

(S E A L)

Davis, Chm., Murray, Gaw, Clayton and Appling, CC., concur
Woodruff, Senior Regulatory Law Judge