

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of the Joint Application of )  
Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone Company )  
and Modern Telecommunications Company )  
for Approval to Merge Modern Telecommunications) )  
Company and Northeast Missouri Rural )  
Telephone Company )

Case No. TM-2002-465

**SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY'S  
RESPONSE TO JOINT STIPULATION**

Southwestern Bell Telephone Company<sup>1</sup> respectfully wishes to inform the Commission that it has no objection to the Commission's approving the Joint Stipulation filed by the Applicants and other parties to this case.

As Southwestern Bell indicated in its pre-filed testimony and September 19, 2002 Position Statement, Southwestern Bell's primary interest in this case was in the level of intrastate access charges to be established by the merged entity. The proposed Joint Stipulation retains existing rates and requires notice to Southwestern Bell of any proposed change. Under these circumstances, Southwestern Bell does not object.

As Southwestern Bell has not taken a position on any of the other issues being raised in this case, and has not materially participated in discussions among the parties concerning those issues, it is not in a position to join the Joint Stipulation as a signatory. However, Southwestern Bell wishes to inform the Commission that its concerns in this transaction have been presently


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<sup>1</sup> Southwestern Bell Telephone, L.P., d/b/a Southwestern Bell Telephone Company is referred to in this filing as either "Southwestern Bell" or "SWBT".

addressed and has no opposition to the Commission approving the Joint Stipulation filed by the Applicants and certain other parties in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

Copies of this document were served on the following parties by e-mail on October 8, 2002.



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