

STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
JEFFERSON CITY

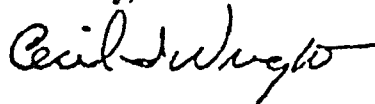
August 8, 1997

^{TO}
CASE NO: ~~FA~~-98-49

Sondra B. Morgan, Brydon, Swearngen & England P.C., 312 E. Capitol Avenue,
P. O. Box 456, Jefferson City, MO 65102
Craig S. Johnson, Andreck, Evans, Milne, Peace & Baumhoer, 309 East McCarty Street,
P. O. Box 1438, Jefferson City, Mo 65102

Enclosed find certified copy of ORDER in the above-numbered case(s).

Sincerely,



Cecil I. Wright
Executive Secretary

Uncertified Copy:
Office of the Public Counsel, P. O. Box 7800, Jefferson City, MO 65102
To all Local and Interexchange Service Providers

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of the Mid-Missouri)
Group and the Small Telephone Company Group of)
Incumbent Local Exchange Companies for Designation)
as Telecommunications Company Carriers Eligible for) Case No. TO-98-49
Federal Universal Service Support Pursuant to)
Section 254 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.)
)

ORDER AND NOTICE

The Mid-Missouri Group¹ (Mid-Mo) and the Small Telephone Company Group² (STCG), collectively referred to as "Applicants," jointly filed on August 1, 1997, an Application for Designation as Eligible Carriers Pursuant to § 254 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The Applicants asked the Commission to designate each of the members of Mid-Mo and STCG, all of whom are incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs), as telecommunications carriers eligible to receive federal universal service support under 47 C.F.R. § 54.201(d). Beginning on January 1, 1998, any carrier that is eligible for universal service support must provide the services that are supported by federal universal support mechanisms as described in 47 C.F.R. § 101 using its own facilities at least in part. The carrier must also advertise the availability of those services and the charges for them using media of general distribution. 47 C.F.R. § 54.201(d). Where a telecommunications carrier is otherwise eligible for universal service

¹ The list of Mid-Missouri Group members is set out in Attachment A to this Order and Notice.

The list of Small Telephone Company Group members is set out in Attachment B to this Order and Notice.

support it may request additional time to complete the network upgrades necessary to provide single-party service, access to enhanced 911 service, or toll limitation. 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(c). The Commission may grant a request for additional time only on a showing of exceptional circumstances and for the period of time the Commission deems necessary to complete the upgrades. *Id.* Because funding will become available under these conditions in January of 1998, the Applicants have asked the Commission to make a determination of their eligibility no later than December 31, 1997.

The Applicants state that, with the exception of three companies to be discussed below, each member provides eight of the nine services supported by federal universal service. The ninth service, toll limitation as defined in 47 C.F.R. § 54.400, is not provided in all its aspects by any of the applying ILECs. The Applicants state that none of these ILECs currently has the technical capability to provide the toll control necessary to implement a service that would allow consumers to limit the amount of toll usage on their line to a specified amount.

Three of the applying ILECs are unable to provide single-party service to all of their customers. KLM Telephone Company (KLM) is working to provide single-party service throughout its area but is currently unable to provide single-party service to 260 of its 1,439 customers. KLM is working with Commission Staff to develop a modernization plan and will agree to provide single-party service to all customers by December 31, 1998. Ozark Telephone Company (Ozark) has 204 customers of its total of 1,729 that are not receiving single-party service. Ozark has filed a request with the Commission for an extension of time until December 31, 1998, to complete its modernization because of inability to obtain the necessary financing. Cass County Telephone Company (Cass County) is also

requesting until December 31, 1998, to complete network upgrades to provide single-party service. Of its 6,899 customers, 747 are not receiving the service now. Cass County has petitioned the Federal Communications Commission for a waiver of 47 C.F.R. §§ 36.612(a) or 36.631(d) to enable it to obtain the universal service funding needed to complete modernization.³ This Commission has supported the company's Petition for Waiver.⁴

The Commission finds that proper parties should be given notice and an opportunity to intervene in this matter. The Records Department of the Commission shall send a copy of this order to all certificated Missouri local exchange and interexchange carriers. Applications to intervene should be submitted to the Executive Secretary of the Missouri Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, and copies sent to:

Sondra B. Morgan
Brydon, Swearingen & England P.C.
312 East Capitol Avenue
Post Office Box 456
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Craig S. Johnson
Andereck, Evans, Milne, Peace
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309 East McCarty Street
Post Office Box 1438
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

In the Matter of Cass County Telephone Company Petition for Waiver of Sections 36.612(a) or 36.631(d) of the Commission's Rules, AAD 97-59, cover letter dated April 9, 1997.

³Comments of the Missouri Public Service Commission in Support of Petition for Waiver, AAD 97-59, submitted on May 19, 1997.

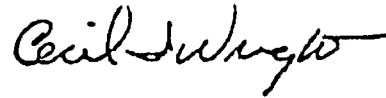
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the Records Department of the Commission shall give notice as described in this order.

2. That any interested party wishing to intervene shall file an application to intervene with the Executive Secretary of the Missouri Public Service Commission and serve a copy on Applicants' representative no later than September 8, 1997.

3. That this order shall become effective on August 8, 1997.

BY THE COMMISSION



**Cecil I. Wright
Executive Secretary**

(S E A L)

L. Anne Wickliffe, Deputy Chief
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 8th day of August, 1997.

MID MISSOURI GROUP

Alma Telephone Company
Chariton Valley Telephone Corporation
Choctaw Telephone Company
Mid-Missouri Telephone Company
Modern Telecommunications Company
MoKan Dial Inc.
Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone Company
Peace Valley Telephone Company Inc.

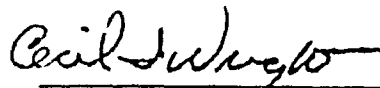
SMALL TELEPHONE COMPANY GROUP

ALLTEL Missouri, Inc.
Bourbeuse Telephone Company
DPS Telephone Company
Cass County Telephone Company
Citizens Telephone Company of Higginsville, Missouri, Inc.
Craw-Kan Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Ellington Telephone Company
Farber Telephone Company
Fidelity Telephone Company
Goodman Telephone Company, Inc.
Granby Telephone Company
Grand River Mutual Telephone Corporation
Green Hills Telephone Corp.
Holway Telephone Company
Iamo Telephone Company
Kingdom Telephone Company
KLM Telephone Company
Lathrop Telephone Company
Le-Ru Telephone Company
McDonald County Telephone Company
Mark Twain Rural Telephone Company
Miller Telephone Company
New Florence Telephone Company
New London Telephone Company
Orchard Farm Telephone Company
Oregon Farmers Mutual Telephone Company
Ozark Telephone Company
Rock Port Telephone Company
Seneca Telephone Company
Steelville Telephone Exchange, Inc.
Stoutland Telephone Company

STATE OF MISSOURI
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and
I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City,
Missouri, this 8th day of AUGUST, 1997.



Cecil I. Wright
Executive Secretary