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September 10, 1997

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FILED

SEP 10 1997

MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Mr. Cecil Wright
Executive Secretary
Missouri Public Service Commission
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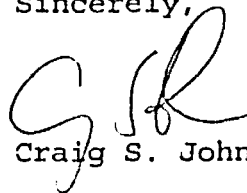
RE: Case TO-98-49

Dear Mr. Wright:

Please find enclosed an original and fourteen copies of The Mid-Missouri Group's Motion For Early Prehearing Conference. A copy of this letter and a copy of the Motion have been mailed to all attorneys of record.

Thank you for seeing this filed.

Sincerely,



Craig S. Johnson

CSJ/ksw
enclosure

FILED

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

SEP 10 1997

MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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

MOTION FOR EARLY PREHEARING CONFERENCE

Comes Now The Mid-Missouri Group, applicants in this case, hereby moves the Commission for an Early Prehearing Conference in this docket.

In support hereof, The Mid-Missouri Group states as follows:

1. On or about August 1, the Small Company Local Exchange Companies in the State of Missouri filed an Application For Designation as Eligible Carriers for Federal Universal Service Fund pursuant to §254 the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

2. Pursuant to the provision of the Federal Act, applicants requested the eligible carrier designation to be made prior to December 31, 1997.

3. On or about August 8, 1997, the Commission issued an Order and Notice in this docket.

4. Subsequent to the Order and Notice, an Application to Intervene was filed on behalf of United Telephone Company Missouri, d/b/a Sprint, an Application to Participate Without Intervention was filed by GTE of the Midwest, an Application to Intervene was filed on behalf of MCI Telecommunications Corporations and MCI Metro Access. An Application to Intervene was filed on behalf of

Southwestern Bell Telephone Company. In addition the Mid-Missouri Group has filed a Response to the Application to Intervene of MCI and United. Those Applications and their Responses thereto presently pend without order.

5. The Application of the Small Telephone Companies was constructed in such a fashion as to obviate the necessity of a formal hearing. In view of the requested approval date of December 31, 1997, The Mid-Missouri Group is concerned that Contests regarding Intervention not unduly delay the procedural schedule in this case.

6. The Mid-Missouri Group respectfully suggests that an early Prehearing Conference will allow all parties to convene to determine if and what issues raised in the Application are in dispute, and suggest a procedural schedule consistent with the disputed issues as well as being designed to allow resolution of this case prior to the December 31, 1997 requested action date.

7. The undersigned counsel of record has spoken to all present attorneys of record, and no party opposes an early Prehearing Conference as requested herein.

Wherefore, The Mid-Missouri Group respectfully requests that the Commission issue an Order scheduling an early Prehearing Conference in this case, consistent with the foregoing, to give such other and further relief as the Commission deems appropriate.

ANDERECK, EVANS, MILNE,
PEACE & BAUMHOER

By 

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ATTORNEY FOR THE MID-MISSOURI GROUP

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Motion For Early Prehearin Conference was mailed via U.S. mail, postage prepaid, this 10th day of September, 1997, to:

Mr. Carl Lumley
Lelane Curtis
130 S. Bemiston, Suite 200
Clayton, MO 63105

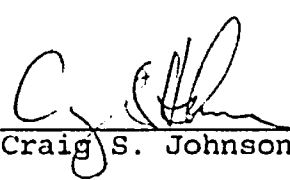
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