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January 6, 2003

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Missouri Public Service Commission Attn: Secretary of the Commission 200 Madison Street, Suite 100 P. O. Box 360 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0360

FILED³

JAN 0 6 2003

Missourl Public Service Commission

10-2003-0094 Case No.

The Pager Company's Application for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier for Federal Lifeline and LinkUp Programs

Dear Secretary:

RE:

Enclosed please find an original and eight copies of the <u>RESPONSE IN</u> <u>OPPOSITION TO APLICATION TO INTERVENE OF SMALL TELEPHONE COMPANY</u> <u>GROUP</u> for filing with the Commission on behalf of The Pager Company in the abovereferenced case.

Thank you for assistance in the processing this filing. Copies are being served on the Commission's General Counsel, the Office of the Public Counsel, and counsel for the Small Telephone Company Group. Please contact me at 634-8109 if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann (Gari) Young

Enclosure

cc: General Counsel Office of the Public Counsel Sondra Morgan, Brydon Swearengen Mark Foster, Foster & Malish Dale Schmick, PagerCo

FILED³ JAN 0 6 2003

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the matter of the Application of **The Pager Company dba The Pager & Phone Company** for Designation as a Telecommunications Carrier Eligible for Federal Universal Service Support pursuant to Section 254 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996

Missouri Public Service Commission

Case No. <u>CO-2003-0094</u>

RESPONSE IN OPPOSITION TO APPLICATION TO INTERVENE OF SMALL TELEPHONE COMPANY GROUP

Comes now The Pager Company dba The Pager & Phone Company ("PagerCo"), by its undersigned counsel, and hereby files its Response in Opposition to Application to Intervene of Small Telephone Company Group. In support hereof, PagerCo states:

1. The Small Telephone Company Group (STCG) and its member companies have not shown that they have an interest different from the general public which may be adversely affected by a final order in this case and thus do not have grounds for intervention in this matter (4 CSR 240-2.075). The STCG and its members would not be affected by any final order in this matter, and therefore the Commission should deny intervention.

2. The area in which PagerCo seeks ETC designation is limited to exchange served by Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBT), as stated in the Amended Application filed herein on November 8, 2002, and further clarified in PagerCo's Supplement to Amended Application filed on December 19. The December 19 Supplement listed the specific exchanges in which it sought ETC designation, namely:

Ash Grove Camdenton Carl Junction Clever Excelsior Springs Grain Valley Harrisonville Kansas City MCA Metro Richmond Sedalia Smithville Springfield MCA St. Joseph PagerCo reiterates herein that it does not seek ETC designation in any area currently served by a small ILEC, but only in exchanges served by SWBT. Thus, none of the members of the STCG will be affected by the Commission's decision in this matter.

2. Designation of PagerCo as an ETC is not premature, as PagerCo has shown its ability to provide services required by an ETC immediately upon designation.

WHEREFORE, Applicant The Pager Company dba The Pager & Phone Company respectfully requests the Commission deny the Small Telephone Company Group's Application to Intervene in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann (Gair) Young Mo. Bar #27951 WILLIAM D. STEINMEIER, P.C. 2031 Tower Drive, P.O. Box 104595 Jefferson City MO 65110-4595 Phone: 573-634-8109 Fax: 573-634-8224 Email: myoung0654@aol.com

COUNSEL FOR THE PAGER COMPANY dba THE PAGER & PHONE COMPANY

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of this document has been hand delivered or mailed by first class mail, postage prepaid to the Office of Public Counsel, the General Counsel of the Missouri Public Service Commission, and counsel for the Small Telephone Company Group on this 6th day of January 2003.

Hary Ann (Garr) Mo