

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of Southwestern Bell)
Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Missouri, for)
Approval of an Amendment to an Interconnection) **File No. IK-2021-0231**
Agreement Under the Telecommunications Act)
of 1996)

ORDER DIRECTING NOTICE, SETTING INTERVENTION DEADLINE, AND MAKING TALK AMERICA A PARTY

Issue Date: January 25, 2021

Effective Date: January 25, 2021

This order provides notice of this application to interested parties, establishes a deadline for intervention and for requesting a hearing, and joins the other party to the interconnection agreement, Talk America, LLC (Talk America) as a party to this proceeding.

On January 20, 2021, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, d/b/a AT&T Missouri (AT&T Missouri) filed an application with the Commission for approval of an amendment to a negotiated Interconnection Agreement with Talk America under the provisions of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. AT&T Missouri states that there are no unresolved issues and that the agreement complies with Section 252(e) of the Act in that it is consistent with the public interest, convenient and necessary, and is not discriminatory to nonparty carriers.

Although Talk America is a party to the agreement, it did not join in the application. Because Talk America is a necessary party to a full and fair adjudication of this matter, the Commission will add Talk America as a party to this case.

The Act provides that an interconnection or resale agreement must be approved unless the state commission finds that the agreement discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement, or that implementation of the agreement is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.¹ Section 252(e)(4) of the Act provides that if the Commission has not approved an agreement within 90 days after submission, the agreement shall be deemed approved. The Commission finds that proper persons shall be allowed 15 days from the issuance of this order to file a motion for hearing. The Commission also finds that notice of this application shall be sent to all interexchange and local exchange telecommunications companies.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The Commission's Data Center shall send notice to all interexchange and local exchange telecommunications companies.
2. Talk America is made a party to this case.
3. Any party wishing to intervene or request a hearing shall do so by filing a pleading no later than February 9, 2021, with:

Morris L. Woodruff, Secretary
Missouri Public Service Commission
Post Office Box 360
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Or by using the Commission's electronic filing and information system (EFIS).

4. The Staff of the Commission shall file a recommendation advising either approval or rejection of this agreement and giving the reasons therefor no later than February 24, 2021.

¹ 47 U.S.C. § 252(e).

5. This order shall be effective when issued.



BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morris L. Woodruff".

Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

Morris L. Woodruff, Chief Regulatory
Law Judge, by delegation of authority
pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2016.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 25th day of January, 2021.