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November 18, 1999

Mr. Dale Roberts
Chief Regulatory Law Judge
Missouri Public Service Commission
301 West High Street, Room 530
Jefferson City, MO 65102

FILED

NOV 22 1999

Missouri Public
Service Commission

Re: Case No. TA-2000-191

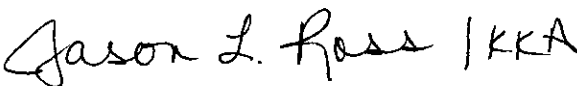
Dear Mr. Roberts,

Enclosed for filing are the original and fourteen (14) copies of the Joint Stipulation and Agreement signed by the counsel for all parties of record in Case No. TA-2000-191. In addition, I have included an extra copy which I request be file stamped and returned to me in the enclosed self-addressed envelope. A copy of the foregoing Joint Stipulation and Agreement has been hand-delivered or mailed this date to the parties of record.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours very truly,

GREENSFELDER, HEMKER & GALE, P.C.

By  /KKA
Jason L. Ross
Sheldon K. Stock

JLR/kka
Enclosures
357036v1

cc: Office of Public Counsel
Mr. John T. Davis

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF MISSOURI

FILED

NOV 22 1999

Missouri Public
Service Commission

In the Matter of the Application of)
Fidelity Communication Services I, Inc.)
for a Certificate of Service Authority to)
Provide Basic Local Telecommunications)
Service in Portions of the State of)
Missouri and for Competitive Classification)

Case No. TA-2000-191

JOINT STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT

1. Fidelity Communication Services I, Inc. ("FCS I" or "Applicant") initiated this proceeding on August 26, 1999, by filing an Application requesting certificate of service authority to provide resold and facilities-based basic local telecommunications service in all exchanges currently served by the incumbent local exchange carrier Sprint Missouri, Inc. (formerly United Telephone Company), d/b/a Sprint ("Sprint"). The specific Sprint exchanges within which Applicant proposes to offer service are listed in the incumbent provider's local exchange tariffs. Applicant reserves the right to seek authority to provide its services in other areas of the state. FCS I intends to provide its proposed services through the use of its own switching equipment and facilities, although it may provide resold services if deemed appropriate.

2. The Commission issued its standard Notice of Applications, which included this case, and set an intervention deadline of September 30, 1999. Southwestern Bell Telephone Company ("SWBT") filed its Application to Intervene on September 30, 1999. By Order issued on October 28, 1999, the Commission granted SWBT intervention and directed the parties to file a proposed procedural schedule on or before November 29, 1999. No other party has sought or has been granted intervention.

3. In determining whether Applicant's application for certificate of service authority should be granted, the Commission should consider Applicant's technical, financial and managerial resources and abilities to provide basic local telecommunications service. Applicant must demonstrate that the basic local services it proposes to offer satisfy the minimum standards established by the Commission, including, but not limited to, the Applicant agreeing to file and maintain basic local service tariff(s) with the Commission in the same manner and form as the Commission requires of incumbent local exchange telecommunications companies with which the applicant seeks to compete. Further, Applicant agrees to meet the minimum basic local service standards, including quality of service and billing standards, as the Commission requires of the incumbent local exchange telecommunications companies with which the applicant seeks to compete. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 392.500 RSMo 1994, as a condition of certification and competitive classification, unless otherwise ordered or permitted by the Commission in any other case, the Applicant's originating and terminating access rates will be no greater than the lowest¹ Commission approved corresponding access rates charged by the large incumbent LEC(s)² within whose area(s) Applicant provides service. Further, Applicant agrees to offer basic local telecommunications service as a separate and distinct service and must sufficiently identify the geographic service area in which it proposes to offer basic local service. Such area must follow exchange boundaries of the incumbent local exchange telecommunications companies and must be no smaller than an exchange. Finally, Applicant agrees to provide equitable access to affordable telecommunications services, as determined by the Commission, for all Missourians within the geographic area in which it proposes to offer

¹ For purposes of this Joint Stipulation and Agreement, SWBT's lowest access rates are defined as excluding optional payment plans.

² Large LEC's are defined as LEC's who serve 100,000 or more access lines. Section 386.020 RSMo. Supp. 1997. In Missouri, the current large LEC's are SWBT, GTE and Sprint.

basic local service, regardless of residence or their income. See Section 392.455 RSMo Supp. 1998.

4. Applicant has submitted its application without tariffs and seeks a temporary waiver of 4 CSR 240-2.060(4)(H)³. Applicant agrees to file its initial tariff(s) in this certification case and serve all parties with written notice at the time the initial tariff(s) are submitted to afford them an opportunity to participate in the tariff approval process. Copies of the tariff(s) will be provided by Applicant to such parties immediately upon request. Any service authority granted pursuant to this Application shall be regarded as conditional and shall not be exercised until such time as the tariff for services shall have become effective. When filing its initial basic local tariff(s), Applicant shall also file and serve a written disclosure of all resale or interconnection agreements which affect Applicant's Missouri service areas, all portions of its Missouri service areas for which it does not have an interconnection agreement with the incumbent local exchange carrier; and its explanation of why such an interconnection agreement is unnecessary for such areas.

B. APPLICANT'S CERTIFICATION

5. Applicant has requested, pursuant to Section 392.420 RSMo 1994 that the Commission waive the application of any or all of the following statutory provisions and rules to basic local telecommunications services, and all parties agree that the Commission should grant such request provided that Section 392.200 RSMo should continue to apply to all of Applicant's services:

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

Section 392.210.2
Section 392.270

COMMISSION RULES

4 CSR 240-10.020
4 CSR 240-30.040

³ Good cause for failure to file proposed tariffs with the Application must be shown. The lack of an approved interconnection agreement (47 USC § 252) constitutes good cause.

Section 392.280
Section 392.290.1
Section 392.300.2
Section 392.310
Section 392.320
Section 392.330
Section 392.340

4 CSR 240-35

6. Applicant hereby agrees that its Application should be deemed amended as required to include by reference the terms and provisions described in paragraphs 3 and 4 hereinabove and paragraphs 8 and 9 below to the extent that its Application might be inconsistent therewith.

7. Based upon its verified Application, as amended by this Stipulation and Agreement, Applicant asserts and no other party makes a contrary assertion, that there is sufficient evidence from which the Commission should find and conclude that Applicant:

A. possesses sufficient technical, financial and managerial resources and abilities to provide basic local telecommunications service and local exchange telecommunications service, including exchange access service;

B. proposes and agrees to offer basic local services that will satisfy the minimum standards established by the Commission;

C. has sufficiently identified the geographic area in which it proposes to offer basic local service and such area follows exchange boundaries of the incumbent local exchange telecommunications companies in the same areas, and such area is no smaller than an exchange;

D. will offer basic local telecommunications services as a separate and distinct service;

E. has agreed to provide equitable access, as determined by the Commission, for all Missourians within the geographic area in which it proposes to offer basic local service, regardless of where they live or their income, to affordable telecommunications services; and

F. has sought authority which will serve the public interest.

8. Applicant asserts, and no party opposes, that Applicant's application and request for authority to provide basic local telecommunications service, including exchange access service, should be granted. All services authorized herein should be classified as competitive telecommunications services, provided that the requirements of Section 392.200 RSMo Supp. 1998 continue to apply, and Applicant shall be classified as a competitive telecommunications company. Applicant asserts, and no party opposes, that such services will be subject to sufficient competition by the services of the incumbent LECs to justify a lesser degree of regulation of Applicant's services consistent with the protection of ratepayers and the promotion of the public interest. Such classification should become effective upon the tariffs for the services becoming effective. Such authority should be conditional, not to be exercised until such time as tariffs for those services have been filed (together with the written disclosure as stipulated above) and have become effective. The Commission's Order should state the foregoing conditions substantially as follows:

"The service authority and service classification herein granted are subject to the requirements of Section 392.200 RSMo and are conditional and shall not be exercised until such time as tariffs for services have become effective."

9. The parties also agree that the Applicant's switched exchange access services may be classified as competitive services. The parties further agree that the Applicant's switched exchange access services are subject to Section 392.200 RSMo Supp. 1998. The parties

recognize the pendency of Case No. TO-99-596, regarding access rates to be charged by competitive local exchange telecommunications companies. Unless otherwise determined by the Commission in Case No. TO-99-596 or any other case, any increases in switched access service rates above the maximum switched access service rates as set forth in paragraph 3 herein shall be cost justified and shall be made exclusively pursuant to 392.220 and 392.230, and not 392.500 and 392.510 RSMo Supp. 1998. The Commission's order should state the foregoing conditions substantially as follows:

" Unless otherwise determined by the Commission in Case No. TO-99-596 or any other case, any increases in switched access service rates above the maximum switched access service rates as set forth herein shall be cost justified and shall be made exclusively pursuant to 392.220 and 392.230, and not 392.500 and 392.510 RSMo Supp. 1998."

10. Applicant's request for a temporary waiver of 4 CSR 240-2.060(4)(H), which requires applications to include a proposed tariff with a 45-day effective date, is not opposed by the parties and should be granted because, at the time of filing its Application, Applicant did not yet have approved a resale or interconnection agreement with any incumbent LEC. Applicant agrees that at such time as all facts necessary for the development of tariffs become known, it will submit tariffs in this docket, with a minimum 45-day proposed effective date, to the Commission for its approval, together with the written disclosure as stipulated above. Applicant shall serve notice to all parties and participants in this docket of the filing of its tariffs at the time they are filed with the Commission, and serve them with the aforesaid written disclosure and shall upon request immediately provide any party with a copy of Applicant's proposed tariff(s).

The Commission's order should state these obligations to the temporary waiver of 4 CSR 240-2.060(4)(H), substantially as follows:

"Applicant's request for temporary waiver of 4 CSR 240-2.060(4)(H) is hereby granted for good cause in that Applicant did not yet have an approved resale or interconnection agreement with the incumbent local exchange carriers within whose service areas it seeks authority to provide service; provided, when Applicant submits its tariffs in this docket to the Commission such tariffs shall have a minimum 45-day effective date and the Applicant shall serve written notice upon the parties hereto of such submittal, and shall provide copies of such tariffs to such parties immediately upon request. When filing its initial basic local service tariff in this docket, the Applicant shall also file and serve upon the parties hereto a written disclosure of: all resale or interconnection agreements which affect its Missouri service areas; all portions of its Missouri service areas for which it does not have a resale or interconnection agreement with the incumbent local exchange carrier; and its explanation of why such a resale or interconnection agreement is unnecessary for any such areas."

11. This Stipulation and Agreement has resulted from extensive negotiations among the signatories and the terms hereof are interdependent. In the event the Commission does not adopt this Stipulation in total, then this Stipulation and Agreement shall be void and no signatory shall be bound by any of the agreements or provisions hereof. The Stipulations herein are specific to the resolution of this proceeding and are made without prejudice to the rights of the signatories to take other positions in other proceedings.

12. In the event the Commission accepts the specific terms of this Stipulation and Agreement, the parties and participants waive, with respect to the issues resolved herein; their respective rights pursuant to Sections 536.070(2) and 536.080.1 RSMo, to present testimony, to cross-examine witnesses, and to present oral argument or written briefs; their respective rights to the reading of the transcript by the Commission pursuant to Section 536.080.2 RSMo; and their respective rights to seek rehearing pursuant to Section 386.510 RSMo. The parties agree to cooperate with the Applicant and with each other in presenting this Stipulation and Agreement for approval to the Commission and shall take no action, direct or indirect, in opposition to the request for approval of Applicant's application made herein.

13. The Staff may submit a Staff Recommendation concerning matters not addressed in this Stipulation. In addition, if requested by the Commission, the Staff will submit to the Commission a memorandum explaining its rationale for entering into this Stipulation and Agreement. Each party of record and participant herein shall be served with a copy of any memorandum and shall be entitled to submit to the Commission, within five (5) days of receipt of Staff's memorandum, a responsive memorandum which shall also be served on all parties and participants. All memoranda submitted by the parties shall be considered privileged in the same manner as settlement discussions under the Commission's rules, shall be maintained on a confidential basis by all parties and participants, and shall not become a part of the record of this proceeding or bind or prejudice the party submitting such memorandum in any future proceeding whether or not the Commission approves this Stipulation and Agreement. The contents of any memorandum provided by any party are its own and are not acquiesced in or otherwise adopted by the other signatories to the Stipulation and Agreement, whether or not the Commission approves and adopts this Stipulation and Agreement.

14. The Staff shall also have the right to provide, at any agenda meeting at which this Stipulation and Agreement is noticed to be considered by the Commission, whatever oral explanation the Commission requests, provided that the Staff shall, to the extent reasonably practicable, provide the other parties and participants with advance notice of the meeting in which the Staff will respond to the Commission's request once such explanation is requested from the Staff. Staff's oral explanation shall be subject to public disclosure.

15. The Office of the Public Counsel, while not a signatory to this Stipulation and Agreement, has been contacted with regard to its filing, and to the signatory parties' best information and belief, has offered no objection.

WHEREFORE, the signatories respectfully request the Commission to issue its Order approving the terms of this Stipulation and Agreement and issue its Order granting authority and classification as requested by Fidelity Communications Services I, Inc., subject to the conditions described above, as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheldon K. Stock

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Attorney for Staff of the Public Service
Commission

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing Stipulation and Agreement was served upon counsel for all parties of record in Case No. TA-2000-191 by depositing a true copy thereof in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, or by hand delivery, this ____ day of November, 1999.

Jason L. Ross