

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 Interconnection Agreement Under the) **File No. IK-2021-0231**
Telecommunications Act of 1996)

ORDER APPROVING INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT

Issue Date: March 3, 2021

Effective Date: April 2, 2021

This order approves an Interconnection Agreement between the parties filed by Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, d/b/a AT&T Missouri (AT&T Missouri).

On January 20, 2021, AT&T Missouri filed an application with the Commission for approval of an adoption of the Interconnection Agreement between itself and Talk America, LLC (Talk America) under the provisions of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. AT&T Missouri is certificated with the Commission as an incumbent local exchange carrier and is a registered IVoIP provider. Talk America is certificated with the Commission as a competitive local exchange and interexchange carrier.

Although Talk America is a party to the Agreement, it did not join in the application. On January 25, 2021, the Commission issued an order making Talk America a party in this case and directing any party wishing to request a hearing to do so no later than February 9, 2021. No requests for hearing were filed.

Under Section 252(e) of the Act, any Interconnection Agreement adopted by negotiation must be submitted to the Commission for approval. The Commission may reject an Agreement if it finds that the Agreement is discriminatory or that it is not consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity.

On February 23, 2021, the Staff of the Commission filed a recommendation. Staff recommends that the Agreement be approved and notes that the Agreement meets the limited requirements of the Act in that it is not discriminatory toward nonparties and is not against the public interest.

The Commission has considered the application, the supporting documentation, and Staff's recommendation. Based upon that review, the Commission finds that the Agreement meets the requirements of the Act in that it does not discriminate against a nonparty carrier and implementation of the Agreement is not inconsistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The Interconnection Agreement between AT&T Missouri and Talk America, filed on January 20, 2021, is approved.
2. This order shall become effective on April 2, 2021.
3. This file may be closed on April 3, 2021.



BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Morris L. Woodruff". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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 3rd day of March, 2021.