

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application	)	
of Fidelity Telephone Company	)	
for authority to file, establish,	)	Case No. IR-2004-0272
and put into effect new, increased,	)	
or revised rates and charges for	)	
telephone service.	)	

**JOINT RECOMMENDATION**  
**REGARDING LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Comes now Fidelity Telephone Company (Fidelity), the Office of Public Counsel (OPC) and the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) and for their Joint Recommendation regarding Local Public Hearings in the above-captioned matter, state to the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) as follows:

1. On December 30, 2003, Fidelity submitted to the Commission proposed tariff sheets intended to implement a general rate increase for telephone service provided to customers in its Missouri service area.
2. On January 13, 2004, the Commission issued its Suspension Order and Notice which, among other things, directed the Parties and Intervenors, if any, to file recommendations as to the dates and locations for local public hearings in this case on or before February 20, 2004.
3. Fidelity, OPC and Staff (Signatories) have discussed the need for local public hearings and, as a result, jointly recommend that the Commission establish two public hearings in this matter, one in Gerald, Missouri and the other in Sullivan, Missouri. The Signatories recommend that the Commission hold such hearings on the same day, with the local public hearing in Gerald to begin at 12:00 noon and the local public hearing in Sullivan to begin later that day at either 5:00 or 6:00 p.m. For purposes of the local public hearing in Gerald, the

Signatories recommend the Commission use the Knights of Columbus Hall located in Gerald, Missouri. For purposes of the local public hearing in Sullivan, the Signatories recommend that the Commission use one of the three public schools located in Sullivan, Missouri. Finally, the Signatories recommend that the Commission hold these public hearings during the week of March 8-12, 2004, as those dates best accommodate the Parties' schedules, the anticipated dates for filing of prepared testimony and other procedural dates in this case.

4. If the Commission agrees with this Joint Recommendation regarding Local Public Hearings, the Signatories further request that the Commission issue its Order establishing local public hearings no later than Friday, February 13, 2004, so that the Company will be able to notify its customers via a special mailing at least ten (10) days prior to the date set for local public hearings.

5. Counsel for Intervenors SBC Missouri (SBC) and AT&T Communications of the Southwest, Inc. (AT&T) have been made aware of this Joint Recommendation and they have advised that they have no objection to same.

WHEREFORE, in light of the foregoing, the Signatories recommend that the Commission issue its Order, no later than February 13, 2004, establishing local public hearings in Gerald and Sullivan, Missouri for one day during the week of March 8-12, 2004, as recommended herein, and for such other orders as are appropriate in the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

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Certificate of Service

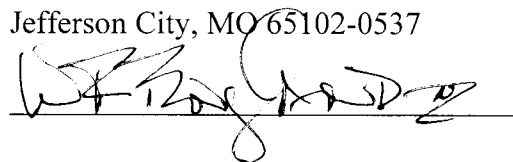
I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document was sent by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, or hand-delivered, on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2004, to:

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark W. Comley", is written over a horizontal line.