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STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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Prehearing Conference

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March 18, 2004
Jefferson City, Missouri
Volume 4

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In the Matter of the)
Application of Fidelity)
Telephone Company for)
Authority to File, Establish)
and Put into Effect New,)
Increased or Revised Rates)
and Charges for Telephone)
Service)

Case No.: IR-2004-0272

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KEVIN A. THOMPSON, Presiding,
DEPUTY CHIEF REGULATORY LAW JUDGE.

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 JUDGE THOMPSON: Well, let's go ahead and go
3 on the record. It's past nine o'clock.

4 Good morning. We're here In the Matter of
5 Application of Fidelity Telephone Company for Authority
6 to File, Establish and Put into Effect New, Increased
7 or Revised Rates and Charges for Telephone Service,
8 Case No. IR-2004-0272.

9 My name is Kevin Thompson. I'm the Regulatory
10 Law Judge now assigned to preside over this matter in
11 place of Judge Kennard Jones.

12 And we will take oral entries of appearance at
13 this time. Why don't we begin with the Company.

14 MR. ENGLAND: Thank you, Your Honor.

15 Let the record reflect the appearance of
16 Sheldon Stock and William R. England on behalf of the
17 Applicant, Fidelity Telephone Company.

18 JUDGE THOMPSON: Thank you.

19 MR. ENGLAND: Our addresses are on our written
20 entries of appearance.

21 JUDGE THOMPSON: I think we can dispense with
22 the addresses.

23 Public Counsel?

24 MS. O'NEILL: Yes. Ruth O'Neill appearing for
25 the Office of the Public Counsel. Michael Dandino is

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1 the counsel in this case.
2 JUDGE THOMPSON: Okay. Staff?
3 MR. BATES: Your Honor, Bruce Bates and
4 William Haas on behalf of the Staff of the Missouri
5 Public Service Commission.
6 JUDGE THOMPSON: Intervenors?
7 MR. COMLEY: Judge, Mark W. Comley, Newman,
8 Comley and Ruth, on behalf of AT&T Communications of
9 the Southwest, Inc.
10 JUDGE THOMPSON: Thank you.
11 Is that all the intervenors, as far as we
12 know?
13 (No response.)
14 JUDGE THOMPSON: Okay.
15 MR. ENGLAND: I was advised by Mr. Bub that
16 Larry Dority would be making an entry of appearance for
17 SBC, who is another intervenor, so --
18 JUDGE THOMPSON: Okay.
19 MR. ENGLAND: I'm kind of surprised he's not
20 here. He may come late.
21 JUDGE THOMPSON: Well, you know, this is set
22 at kind of an unusual time for a prehearing conference,
23 and perhaps Mr. Dority is planning to come down at
24 ten o'clock.
25 MR. ENGLAND: Well, if that's the case, I

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1 think we can probably settle it before -- I think we've
2 found someone to pay the increase.

3 JUDGE THOMPSON: Okay. This is -- this is
4 a -- a miniature rate case -- a small telephone company
5 rate case, and I guess this is a miniature rate case
6 prehearing conference, because it's set only for
7 two days, rather than the standard five.

8 Do you all have an agenda for the next
9 two days?

10 (No response.)

11 JUDGE THOMPSON: Do you know what you're going
12 to be doing?

13 MR. ENGLAND: We think we do, Your Honor.

14 JUDGE THOMPSON: Very good.

15 You have rooms in which to -- to break out and
16 do these things?

17 MR. ENGLAND: I believe so.

18 JUDGE THOMPSON: This one will be needed for a
19 prehearing conference, I believe, tomorrow morning.
20 It's either this one or in the other one, but we'll
21 find space for you if that's going to be a problem.
22 There's also a -- a hearing tomorrow afternoon.

23 So if you need me, I will be available except
24 for that hearing tomorrow afternoon. This is on the --
25 well, you should be there --

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1 MR. ENGLAND: I'll --

2 JUDGE THOMPSON: -- yourself since it's the
3 Missouri-American rate case Stipulation and Agreement
4 dog-and-pony show.

5 Okay. Do the parties have anything to bring
6 to my attention at this time?

7 MS. O'NEILL: I don't believe so, Your Honor.

8 JUDGE THOMPSON: The Chief Law Judge is always
9 urging us to be much more active at these prehearing
10 conferences, but I figure if all I could do is, you
11 know, overtip the cart and I don't want to do anything
12 to -- to do that.

13 Okay. Hearing nothing, we will adjourn the
14 recorded portion of the prehearing conference, and get
15 out there and settle this case.

16 Thank you.

17 MR. ENGLAND: Thank you, Your Honor.

18 WHEREUPON, the on-the-record portion of the
19 prehearing conference was concluded.

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