

Office of the Public Counsel, P.O. Box 7800, Jefferson City, MO 65102

W.R. England, Sondra B. Morgan, Brydon, Swearengen & England, 312 E. Capitol Ave., P.O. Box 456, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0456

James C. Stroo, Associate General Counsel, GTE Telephone Operations, 1000 GTE Dr., P.O. Box 307, Wentzville, MO 63385

Craig S. Johnson, Andereck, Evans, Milne, Peace & Baumhoer, 305 E. McCarty St., Third Floor-Hawthorn Center, P.O. Box 1438, Jefferson City, MO 65102

Linda K. Gardner, United Telephone Company of Missouri, 5454 W. 110th St., Overland Park, KS 66211

Julie Grimaldi, Julie Bowles, Sprint Communications Company, 8140 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, MO 64114

Paul G. Lane, Diana J. Harter, Leo J. Bub, Anthony K. Conroy, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, 100 N. Tucker Blvd., Room 630, St. Louis, MO 63101

Carl J. Lumley, Leland B. Curtis, Curtis, Oetting, Heinz, Garrett & Soule, P.C., 130 S. Bemiston, Suite 200, St. Louis, MO 63105

Stephen Morris, MCI Telecommunications Corporation, 701 Brazos, Suite 600, Austin, Texas 78701 Paul H. Gardner, Goller, Gardner & Feather, Professional Corporation, 131 E. High St., Jefferson City, MO 65101

Mark W. Comley, Newman, Comley & Ruth, 205 E. Capitol Ave., P.O. Box 537, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0537

Paul S. DeFord, Lathrop & Gage, L.C., 2345 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108 Larry R. Lovett, AT&T, 101 W. McCarty, Suite 216, Jefferson City, MO 65101 Mark Harper, United Telephone Company of Missouri, 5454 W. 110th St., Overland Park, KS 66211

Doug Trabaris, Madelon Kuchera, Elizabeth Howland, Teleport Communications Group, 233 S. Wacker Dr., Suite 2100, Chicago, IL 60606

Michael J. Ensrud, Competitive Telephone Association of Missouri, 6950 W. 56th St., Mission, KS66202

Mark E. Long, Attorney General, Ronald Molteni, Assistant Attorney General, 221 W. High St., P.O. Box 899, Jefferson City, 65102

FILED

JAN 1 2 1998

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Notice of Ex Parte Contact

TO:

All Commissioners

All Parties in Case No. TW-97-333 et. al.

FROM:

Vice Chair M. Dianne Drainer

DATE:

January 6, 1998



On January 6, 1998, I received the attached document from Tom Quinn. The Commission is currently considering the same issues as to those set out in this document in Case No. TW-97-333. The Commission is bound by the same *ex parte* rule as a court of law.

Pursuant to 4 CSR 240-4.020(4) it is improper for any person to attempt to sway the judgement of the Commission by undertaking, directly or indirectly, outside the hearing process, to bring pressure or influence to bear upon the Commission, or the Regulatory Law Judge assigned to the proceeding.

Whenever such contact might occur 4 CSR 240-4.020(a) states: as ex parte communications (either oral or written) may occur inadvertently, any member of the Commission or Regulatory Law Judge who received the communication shall immediately prepare a written report concerning the communication and submit it to the Chair and each member of the Commission. The report shall identify the person(s) who participated in the ex parte communication, the circumstances which resulted in the communication, the substance of the communication, and the relationship of the communication to a particular matter at issue before the Commission.

Therefore, out of an abundance of caution, I think it appropriate to submit this notice of ex parte contact pursuant to the standards set out in the rules cited above. This will ensure that any party to this case will have notice of the attached information and a full and fair opportunity to respond to the comments contained therein.

cc:

Executive Director

Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

General Counsel

635 SOUTH JEFFERSON STREET CENTRALIA, MISSOURI 65240-1625 Phone, 573-682-3561

Fax: 573-682-2181

January 2, 1998

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Missouri Public Service Commission Dianne Drainer, Commissioner 301 W. High Street P.O. Box 360 Jefferson City, MO 65102

M. DIANNE DRAINER

Dear Ms. Drainer:

First of all I would like to thank you for your presence at the December 17, 1997 meeting in Centralia in regards to the COS program. I am aware how challenging your position can be especially when your are facing a group with a concern on one of your rulings.

It is difficult for me to project the impact of dropping COS on the Centralia School District. Our Columbia calls run about 3,000 minutes per month. Any amount above eight cents a minute would result in an increase in cost for us. For example, if the price should double it would cost us approximately an additional \$3,000 per year.

On a personal level, I have four children going to school or working in Columbia. The COS program has been a real blessing to us in keeping in contact with our children especially since two of them have significant health problems.

I do realize, after the meeting, that the dropping of COS appears to be inevitable. Therefore, I would ask the Commissioners to keep the COS until GTE can come up with some form of an alternative plan. Ideally, I would like to see Centralia included in the Columbia exchange.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Tom Quinn Superintendent

Centralia R-VI Schools

STATE OF MISSOURI OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City,

Missouri, this <u>13th</u> day of <u>January</u>, 1998.

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

Ask Hard Roberts