

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
JEFFERSON CITY
February 1, 2000**

CASE NO: TC-2000-325, TC-2000-401, TC-2000-402

Office of the Public Counsel

P.O. Box 7800
Jefferson City, MO 65102

**Paul G. Lane/Leo J. Bub/Anthony K.
Conroy/Katherine C. Swaller**

Southwestern Bell Telephone Company
One Bell Center Room 3520
St Louis, MO 63101

Goodman Telephone Company

P. O. Box 592
Seneca, MO 64856
William R. England, III
Brydon, Swearingen & England
P O Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Jim Levin, Director
Center for Dispute Resolution
206 Hulston Hall
Columbia, MO 65211

General Counsel

Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Craig S. Johnson

Andereck, Evans, Milne, Peace & Baumhoer
P.O. Box 1438
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Seneca Telephone Company

P. O. Box 329
Seneca, MO 64865
Craig S. Johnson
Andereck, Evans, Milne, Peace, Baumhoer
301 E. McCarty Street
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Enclosed find certified copy of an ORDER in the above-numbered case(s).

Sincerely,



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Southwestern Bell Telephone Company's)
Complaint Against Mid-Missouri Telephone)
Company for Blocking Southwestern Bell's) Case No. TC-2000-325
800 MaxiMizer Traffic and Request for an)
Order Requiring Mid-Missouri to Restore)
the Connection.)

Southwestern Bell Telephone Company's)
Complaint Against Goodman and Seneca)
Telephone Companies and Request for an) Case No. TC-2000-401
Order Prohibiting Them from Cutting Off)
Southwestern Bell's 800 MaxiMizer Traffic.)

Southwestern Bell Telephone Company's)
Complaint Against Chariton Valley)
Telephone Corporation and Request for an) Case No. TC-2000-402
Order Prohibiting Chariton Valley from)
Cutting Off Southwestern Bell's 800)
MaxiMizer Traffic.)

ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE

On November 10, 1999, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBT) filed a complaint against Mid-Missouri Telephone Company (Mid-Missouri). Subsequently, on December 30, 1999, SWBT filed separate complaints against Chariton Valley Telephone Corporation (Chariton Valley) and against Seneca and Goodman Telephone Companies (Seneca-Goodman). All three complaints allege that respondent phone companies have improperly cut off SWBT's 800 MaxiMizer traffic. Mid-Missouri, Chariton Valley and Seneca-Goodman have separately answered SWBT's complaint and each has filed a motion asking the Commission to dismiss SWBT's complaint.

On January 26, 2000, SWBT filed a Motion to Consolidate and to Schedule an Early Prehearing Conference in each of the three cases. Prior to SWBT having filed its motion to consolidate, each of the respondent phone companies filed pleadings indicating their consent to the consolidation of SWBT's complaints against all of the respondent phone companies.

SWBT's Motion to Consolidate indicates that all three of the complaints present common questions of law and fact. Indeed, the complaints are nearly identical and the relief that SWBT seeks from the Commission in each case is identical. SWBT's motion indicates that counsel for SWBT has discussed consolidating these three complaints with counsel for each of the respondents. The motion indicates that consolidating these cases would be the most efficient way to handle them and that all consented to consolidation.

Upon review of these matters, the Commission concludes that common questions of law and fact will likely be presented in these proceedings. The Commission further concludes that consolidation of these proceedings will result in the most efficient use of the Commission's resources and that no party will be prejudiced by consolidation of these proceedings.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That Case Numbers TC-2000-401 and TC-2000-402 are consolidated with and into Case Number TC-2000-325.
2. That Case Number TC-2000-325 is designated as the lead case and that hereafter all pleadings, briefs and correspondence regarding the consolidated cases shall be filed in the lead case.

3. That this order shall become effective on February 14, 2000.

BY THE COMMISSION



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Morris L. Woodruff, Regulatory
Law Judge, by delegation of
authority pursuant to 4 CSR
240-2.120(1), (November 30, 1995)
and Section 386.240, RSMo 1994.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 1st day of February, 2000.

**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 1st day of FEBRUARY 2000.



Dale Hardy Roberts

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge