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February 18, 2000



The Honorable Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
Missouri Public Service Commission
301 West High Street, Floor 5A
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

FILED³

FEB 22 2000

**Missouri Public
Service Commission**

Re: Case No. TA-2000-484

Dear Judge Roberts:

Enclosed for filing with the Commission in the above-referenced case is an original and 14 copies of Southwestern Bell Telephone Company's Application to Intervene.

Please stamp "Filed" on the extra copy and return the copy to me in the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Thank you for bringing this matter to the attention of the Commission.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mimi B. MacDonald", written in a cursive style.

Mimi B. MacDonald

Enclosure

cc: Attorneys of Record

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

FILED³

FEB 22 2000

In the matter of the Application of Essential.com,)
Inc. for a Certificate of Service Authority to)
provide Basic Local Telecommunications Service)
in portions of the State of Missouri and for)
Competitive Classification.)

Case No. TA-2000-484 Missouri Public
Service Commission

**SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY'S
APPLICATION TO INTERVENE**

COMES NOW Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBT) and respectfully
submits its Application to Intervene in this proceeding pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.060 and 2.075.

In support of its Application, SWBT states:

1. SWBT is a Missouri corporation duly authorized to conduct business in Missouri
with its principal Missouri office at One Bell Center, St. Louis, Missouri 63101. SWBT is a
“local exchange telecommunications company” and a “public utility” and is authorized to
provide “telecommunications service” within the state of Missouri as each of those phrases are
defined in §386.020 RSMo (1994).

2. All correspondence, pleadings, orders, decisions and communications regarding
this proceeding should be sent to:

Paul G. Lane
Leo J. Bub
Anthony K. Conroy
Mimi B. MacDonald
Attorneys for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company
One Bell Center, Room 3510
St. Louis, Missouri 63101

3. In this proceeding, Essential.com, Inc. seeks a certificate of service authority to
provide basic local exchange telecommunications services in exchanges currently served by
Sprint of Missouri, GTE Midwest, Inc. and SWBT. Essential.com seeks classification as a
competitive company and to receive a lesser degree of regulation as permitted under Sections
392.361 and 392.420 RSMo. (1994) and the waiver of various statutory provisions and
Commission rules.

4. The services which Essential.com seeks Commission authority to provide will be offered in direct competition with SWBT if Essential.com's Application in this proceeding is granted. SWBT therefore has a direct interest in the Commission's decision on Essential.com's Application. At this point, SWBT does not have sufficient information to either support or oppose Essential.com's Application.

5. SWBT's interests as a provider of basic local exchange service differ from those of the general public. No other party to this proceeding will adequately protect SWBT's interest.

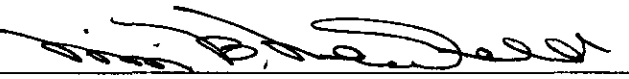
6. Granting SWBT's Application to Intervene is in the public interest because SWBT will bring to this proceeding its extensive expertise and experience as a telecommunications provider.

WHEREFORE, SWBT respectfully requests the Commission to grant this Application to Intervene.

Respectfully submitted,

SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY

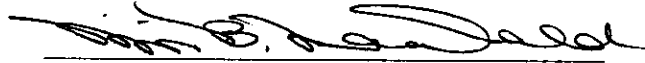
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing document were served to all parties on the Service List by overnight delivery on February 18, 2000.



Mimi B. MacDonald

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