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Case No. TA-2000-245

BASIC LOCAL AND EXCHANGE ACCESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

Procedural History

Convergent Communications Services, Inc. (CCSI) applied to the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) on September 21, 1999, for a certificate of service authority to provide basic local telecommunications services in Missouri under Sections 392.420 - .440, RSMo 1994¹, and Sections 392.410 and .455², RSMo Supp. 1998. CCSI asked the Commission to classify it as a competitive company and waive certain statutes and rules as authorized by Sections 392.361 and 392.420. CCSI is a Colorado corporation with principal offices located at 400 Inverness Drive South, Suite 400, Englewood, Colorado 80112.

The Commission issued a notice and schedule of applicants on September 28, 1999, directing interested parties wishing to intervene to do so by October 28, 1999.

1 All statutory references are to Revised Statutes of Missouri 1994
unless otherwise indicated.

2 CCSI's application cites the statute as 392.44055, which is a scrivener's error.

On October 25, 1999, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBT) filed its application to intervene, which was granted on November 18, 1999.

The parties filed a Stipulation and Agreement (Agreement), which is included with this order as Attachment 1, on November 17, 1999. The Agreement stated that the Office of the Public Counsel, while not a signatory to the Agreement, had been contacted with regard to its filing and had offered no objection. The Agreement will be treated as unanimous. Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.115(1) states in part: "If no party requests a hearing, the commission will treat the stipulation and agreement as a unanimous stipulation and agreement."

The Staff of the Commission filed Suggestions in Support of the Stipulation and Agreement on December 6, 1999. In the Agreement, the parties waived their rights to present testimony, cross-examine witnesses, present oral argument or briefs, and to seek rehearing or judicial review. The requirement for a hearing is met when the opportunity for hearing has been provided and no proper party has requested the opportunity to present evidence. State ex rel. Rex Deffenderfer Enterprises, Inc. v. Public Service Commission, 776 S.W.2d 494, 496 (Mo. App. 1989). Since no one has requested a hearing in this case, the Commission may grant the relief requested based on the verified application.

Discussion

CCSI seeks certification to provide basic local and exchange access telecommunications services in portions of Missouri that are currently served by SWBT, GTE Midwest Incorporated (GTE) and Sprint

Missouri, Inc. d/b/a Sprint (Sprint). CCSI is not asking for certification in any area that is served by a small incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC). CCSI proposes to provide service in the exchanges currently served by SWBT, GTE and Sprint as listed in Exhibit IV of its application. CCSI is requesting that it be classified as competitive and that the application of certain statutes and regulatory rules be waived.

A. Requirements of 4 CSR 240-2.060(4)

Commission rule 4 CSR 240-2.060(4) requires a foreign corporation applying for certification to provide telecommunications services to include in its application a certificate from the Secretary of State showing that it is authorized to do business in Missouri, a description of the types of service it intends to provide, a description of the exchanges where it will offer service, and a proposed tariff with a 45-day effective date. CCSI has provided all the required documentation except for the proposed tariff. The company requested a temporary waiver of 4 CSR 240-2.060(4)(H) until it has entered into an interconnection agreement with the underlying local exchange carrier and that agreement has been approved by the Commission. The company agreed to submit to the Commission for approval a proposed tariff with a minimum 45-day effective date once it is party to the appropriate interconnection agreement. The Agreement provides that CCSI will file the tariff in this case and give notice of the tariff filing to all the parties. Along with that filing, CCSI has agreed to provide a written disclosure of all interconnection agreements it has entered into which affect its Missouri service areas. The Commission has found that holding open the certificate case until a

tariff is filed may result in the case being left open without activity for an extended period. Therefore, this case will be closed and when CCSI files the required tariff it will be assigned a new case number. CCSI will be directed to provide the notice and disclosures required by the Agreement when it files its proposed tariff.

B. Basic Local Service Certification

Section 392.455, RSMo Supp. 1998, sets out the requirements for granting certificates to provide basic local telecommunications service to new entrants. A new entrant must: (1) possess sufficient technical, financial and managerial resources and abilities to provide basic local telecommunications service; (2) demonstrate that the services it proposes to offer satisfy the minimum standards established by the Commission; (3) set forth the geographic area in which it proposes to offer service and demonstrate that such area follows exchange boundaries of the incumbent local exchange telecommunications company and is no smaller than an exchange; and (4) offer basic local telecommunications service as a separate and distinct service. In addition, the Commission must give due consideration to equitable access for all Missourians to affordable telecommunications services, regardless of where they live or their income.

CCSI submitted as Exhibit III to its application certain financial documentation. Exhibit II to the application lists the names and qualifications of CCSI's management team. The parties agreed that CCSI possesses sufficient technical, financial and managerial resources and abilities to provide basic local telecommunications service.

CCSI has agreed to provide services that will meet the minimum basic local service standards required by the Commission, including quality of service and billing standards. The parties agreed that CCSI proposes to offer basic local services that satisfy the minimum standards established by the Commission.

CCSI wishes to be certificated to offer services in all the exchanges presently served by SWBT, GTE and Sprint as described in their basic local tariffs. The parties agreed that CCSI has sufficiently identified the geographic area in which it proposes to offer basic local service and that the area follows ILEC exchange boundaries and is no smaller than an exchange.

CCSI has agreed to offer basic local telecommunications service as a separate and distinct service and to provide equitable access, as determined by the Commission, for all Missourians within the geographic area in which it will offer basic local services in compliance with Section 392.455(5), RSMo Supp. 1998.

C. Competitive Classification

The Commission may classify a telecommunications provider as a competitive company if the Commission determines it is subject to sufficient competition to justify a lesser degree of regulation. Section 392.361.2. In making that determination, the Commission may consider such factors as market share, financial resources and name recognition, among others. In the matter of the investigation for the purpose of determining the classification of the services provided by interexchange telecommunications companies within the State of Missouri, 30 Mo. P.S.C. (N.S.) 16 (1989); In the matter of Southwestern Bell

Telephone Company's application for classification of certain services as transitionally competitive, 1 Mo. P.S.C. 3d 479, 484 (1992). In addition, the Commission may classify a telecommunications company as a competitive telecommunications company only upon a finding that all telecommunications services offered by such company are competitive telecommunications services pursuant to Section 392.361.3. The Commission has found that whether a service is competitive is a subject for case-by-case examination and that different criteria may be given greater weight depending upon the service being considered. *Id.* at 487.

The parties have agreed that CCSI should be classified as a competitive telecommunications company. The parties have also agreed that CCSI's switched exchange access services may be classified as a competitive service, conditioned upon certain limitations on CCSI's ability to charge for its access services. CCSI has agreed that, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission, its originating and terminating access rates will be no greater than the lowest Commission-approved corresponding access rates in effect for the large ILECs within whose service areas CCSI seeks to operate. The parties have agreed that the grant of service authority and competitive classification to CCSI should be expressly conditioned on the continued applicability of Section 392.200, RSMo Supp. 1998, and on the requirement that any increases in switched access services rates above the maximum switched access service rates set forth in the agreement must be cost-justified pursuant to Sections 392.220, RSMo Supp. 1998, and 392.230, rather than Sections 392.500 and 392.510.

The parties agreed that waiver of the following statutes is appropriate: Sections 392.210.2, 392.270, 392.280, 392.290.1, 392.300.2, 392.310, 392.320, 392.330, RSMo Supp. 1998, and 392.340³. The parties also agreed that application of these Commission rules could be waived: 4 CSR 240-10.020, 4 CSR 240-30.040, and 4 CSR 240-35.

Findings of Fact

The Missouri Public Service Commission, having considered all of the competent and substantial evidence upon the whole record, makes the following findings of fact:

- A. The Commission finds that competition in the basic local exchange telecommunications market is in the public interest.
- B. The Commission finds that CCSI has met the requirements of 4 CSR 240-2.060(4) for applicants for certificates of service authority to provide telecommunications services with the exception of the filing of a tariff with a 45-day effective date.
- C. The Commission finds that CCSI has demonstrated good cause to support a temporary waiver of the tariff filing requirement and the waiver shall be granted.

³ CCSI, in its application, also asked for a waiver of Section 392.240(1). However, this statute was not mentioned in the Agreement and thus the requested waiver of such statute has been abandoned. Also, in the application, CCSI requested the waiver of Section 392.290, but the Agreement states that the parties agreed that only Section 392.290.1 shall be waived.

- D. The Commission finds that the local exchange services market is competitive and that granting CCSI a certificate of service authority to provide local exchange telecommunications services is in the public interest. CCSI's certificate shall become effective when its tariff becomes effective.
- E. The Commission finds that CCSI meets the statutory requirements for provision of basic local telecommunications services and has agreed to abide by those requirements in the future. The Commission determines that granting CCSI a certificate of service authority to provide basic local exchange telecommunications services is in the public interest. CCSI's certificate shall become effective when its tariff becomes effective.
- F. The Commission finds that CCSI is a competitive company and should be granted waiver of the statutes and rules set out in the ordered paragraph below.
- G. The Commission finds that CCSI's certification and competitive status should be expressly conditioned upon the continued applicability of Section 392.200, RSMo Supp. 1998, and on the requirement that any increases in switched access services rates above the maximum switched access service rates set forth in the agreement must be cost-justified pursuant to Sections 392.220, RSMo Supp. 1998, and 392.230, rather than Sections 392.500 and 392.510.

Conclusions of Law

The Missouri Public Service Commission has reached the following conclusions of law:

The Commission has the authority to grant certificates of service authority to provide telecommunications service within the state of Missouri. CCSI has requested certification under Sections 392.420 - .440, and Sections 392.410 and .455, RSMo Supp. 1998, which permit the Commission to grant a certificate of service authority where it is in the public interest. Sections 392.361 and .420 authorize the Commission to modify or suspend the application of its rules and certain statutory provisions for companies classified as competitive or transitionally competitive.

The federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 and Section 392.455, RSMo Supp. 1998, were designed to institute competition in the basic local exchange telecommunications market in order to benefit all telecommunications consumers. See Section 392.185, RSMo Supp. 1998.

The Commission has the legal authority to accept a Stipulation and Agreement as offered by the parties as a resolution of the issues raised in this case, pursuant to Section 536.060, RSMo Supp. 1998. Based upon the Commission's review of the applicable law and Agreement of the parties, and upon its findings of fact, the Commission concludes that the Agreement should be approved.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the Stipulation and Agreement of the parties, filed on November 17, 1999, is approved.
2. That Convergent Communications Services, Inc. is granted a certificate of service authority to provide local exchange

telecommunications services in the state of Missouri, subject to the conditions of certification set out above and to all applicable statutes and Commission rules except as specified in this order. The certificate of service authority shall become effective when the company's tariff becomes effective.

3. That Convergent Communications Services, Inc. is granted a certificate of service authority to provide basic local telecommunications services in the state of Missouri, subject to the conditions of certification set out above and to all applicable statutes and Commission rules except as specified in this order. The certificate of service authority shall become effective when the company's tariff becomes effective.

4. That Convergent Communications Services, Inc. is classified as a competitive telecommunications company. Application of the following statutes and regulatory rules shall be waived:

Statutes

- 392.210.2 - uniform system of accounts
- 392.270 - valuation of property (ratemaking)
- 392.280 - depreciation accounts
- 392.290.1 - issuance of securities
- 392.300.2 - acquisition of stock
- 392.310 - stock and debt issuance
- 392.320 - stock dividend payment
- 392.340 - reorganization(s)
- 392.330, RSMo Supp. 1998 - issuance of securities,
debts and notes

Commission Rules

- 4 CSR 240-10.020 - depreciation fund income
- 4 CSR 240-30.040 - uniform system of accounts
- 4 CSR 240-35 - reporting of bypass and
customer-specific arrangements

5. That the request for waiver of 4 CSR 240-2.060(4)(H), which requires the filing of a 45-day tariff, is granted.

6. That Convergent Communications Services, Inc. shall file tariff sheets with a minimum 45-day effective date reflecting the rates, rules, regulations and the services it will offer within thirty (30) days after the effective date of a Commission order approving an interconnection agreement that will allow to provide services. The tariff shall include a listing of the statutes and Commission rules waived above.

7. That Convergent Communications Services, Inc. shall give notice of the filing of the tariffs described above to all parties or participants in this case. In addition, Convergent Communications Services, Inc. shall file a written disclosure of all interconnection agreements which affect its Missouri service areas, all portions of Missouri service areas for which it does not have an interconnection agreement, and an explanation of why no interconnection agreement is necessary for those areas.

8. That Convergent Communications Services, Inc.'s certification and competitive status are expressly conditioned upon the continued applicability of Section 392.200, RSMo Supp. 1998, and on the requirement that any increases in switched access service rates above the maximum switched access service rates set forth in the agreement must be cost-justified pursuant to Sections 392.220, RSMo Supp. 1998, and 392.230, rather than Sections 392.500 and 392.510.

9. That this order shall become effective on December 20, 1999.
10. That this case may be closed on December 21, 1999.

BY THE COMMISSION



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Bill Hopkins, Senior 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 9th day of December, 1999.

FILED³

NOV 17 1999

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF MISSOURI

Missouri Public
Service Commission

In the Matter of the Application of)
Convergent Communications Services, Inc. for a)
Certificate of Service Authority to Provide Basic)
Local Telecommunications Service in Portions)
of the State of Missouri and to Classify)
said Service as Competitive)

Case No. TA-2000-245

STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT

1. Convergent Communications Services, Inc. ("CCS" or "Applicant") initiated this proceeding on September 21, 1999, by filing an Application requesting a certificate of service authority to provide basic local exchange telecommunications service and exchange access service in exchanges currently served by Southwestern Bell Telephone Company ("SWB"), GTE Midwest Incorporated ("GTE"), and Sprint Missouri, Inc. d/b/a Sprint ("Sprint").

2. The Commission has granted the timely application to intervene of SWB. GTE and Sprint did not seek and have not been granted intervention in this proceeding.

3. For purposes of this Stipulation and Agreement, the parties agree that applications for local exchange authority in exchanges served by "large" local exchange companies (LEC's)¹ should be processed in a manner similar to that in which applications for interexchange and local exchange authority are currently handled.

4. In determining whether CCS' application for a certificate of service authority should be granted, the Commission should consider CCS' technical, financial and managerial resources and abilities to provide basic local telecommunications service. CCS must demonstrate that the basic local services it proposes to offer satisfy the

¹ Large LEC's are defined as LEC's who serve 100,000 or more access lines. Section 386.020 RSMo. Supp. 1998. In Missouri, the current large LEC's are SWB, GTE and Sprint.

minimum standards established by the Commission, including but not limited to the Applicant agreeing to file and maintain basic local service tariff(s) with the Commission in the same manner and form as the Commission requires of incumbent local exchange telecommunications companies with which the applicant seeks to compete. Further, CCS agrees to meet the minimum basic local service standards, including quality of service and billing standards, as the Commission requires of the incumbent local exchange telecommunications companies with which the applicant seeks to compete.

Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 392.500 RSMo. (1994), as a condition of certification and competitive classification, CCS agrees that, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission, the Applicant's originating and terminating access rates will be no greater than the lowest Commission approved corresponding access rates in effect for the large incumbent LEC(s) within whose service area(s) Applicant seeks authority to provide service. Further, CCS agrees to offer basic local telecommunications service as a separate and distinct service and must sufficiently identify the geographic service area in which it proposes to offer basic local service. Such area must follow exchange boundaries of the incumbent local exchange telecommunications companies and must be no smaller than an exchange. Finally, CCS agrees to provide equitable access to affordable telecommunications services, as determined by the Commission, for all Missourians within the geographic area in which it proposes to offer basic local service, regardless of residence or their income. See Section 392.455 RSMo. (1998 Supp.)

5. CCS has submitted its application without tariffs and seeks a temporary waiver of 4 CSR 240-2.060(4)(H). CCS has not obtained approved Resale Agreements with SWB, Sprint, or GTE. CCS agrees to file its initial tariffs in this certification docket and serve all parties thereto with written notice at the time the initial tariffs are submitted to afford them an opportunity to participate in the tariff approval process. Copies of the tariffs will be provided by Applicant to such parties immediately upon request. Any service authority shall be regarded as conditional and shall not be exercised until such time as tariffs for services have become effective. When filing its initial basic local tariff, CCS shall also file and serve a written disclosure of all resale and/or interconnection agreements which affect its Missouri service areas, all portions of its Missouri service areas for which it does not have a resale and/or interconnection agreement with the incumbent local exchange carrier, and its explanation of why such a resale and/or interconnection agreement is unnecessary for such areas.

6. CCS has, pursuant to Section 392.420 RSMo., requested that the Commission waive the application of any or all of the following statutory provisions and rules to basic local telecommunications services, and all parties agree that the Commission should grant such request provided that Section 392.200 RSMo., should continue to apply to all CCS' services:

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

Section 392.210.2
Section 392.270
Section 392.280
Section 392.290.1
Section 392.300.2
Section 392.310
Section 392.320
Section 392.330
Section 392.340

COMMISSION RULES

4 CSR 240-10.020
4 CSR 240-30.040
4 CSR 240-35

7. In negotiating the remaining provisions of this Stipulation and Agreement, the parties have employed the foregoing standards and criteria, which are intended to meet the requirements of existing law and Sections 392.450 and 392.455 RSMo., regarding applications for certificates of local exchange authority to provide basic local telecommunications services.

CCS' CERTIFICATION

8. CCS has submitted as Appendix B to its Application a listing of the specific exchanges in which it seeks authority to provide service. The exchanges identified are those currently served by SWB, GTE and Sprint. CCS hereby agrees that its Application should be deemed further amended as required to include by reference the terms and provisions described in paragraphs 4-6 hereinabove and paragraph 11 below to the extent that its Application might be inconsistent therewith.

9. Based upon its verified Application, as amended by this Stipulation and Agreement, CCS asserts and no other party makes a contrary assertion, that there is sufficient evidence from which the Commission should find and conclude that CCS:

A. possesses sufficient technical, financial and managerial resources and abilities to provide basic local telecommunications service, including exchange access service;

B. proposes and agrees to offer basic local services that will satisfy the minimum standards established by the Commission;

C. has sufficiently identified the geographic area in which it proposes to offer basic local service and such area follows exchange boundaries of the incumbent local exchange telecommunications companies in the same areas, and such area is no smaller than an exchange;

D. will offer basic local telecommunications services as a separate and distinct service;

E. has agreed to provide equitable access to affordable communications services as determined by the Commission for all Missourians within the geographic area in which it proposes to offer basic local service, regardless of where they live or their income; and

F. has sought authority which will serve the public interest.

10. CCS asserts, and no party opposes, that CCS' application and request for authority to provide basic local telecommunications service, including exchange access service should be granted. All services authorized herein should be classified as competitive telecommunications services, provided that the requirements of Section 392.200 continue to apply, and CCS shall remain classified as a competitive telecommunications company. CCS asserts, and no party opposes, that such services will be subject to sufficient competition by the services of the incumbent LEC's to justify a lesser degree of regulation of CCS' services consistent with the protection of ratepayers and the promotion of the public interest. Such classification should become effective upon the tariffs for the services becoming effective. Such authority should be conditional, not to be exercised until such time as tariffs for those services have been filed (together with the written disclosure as stipulated above) and have become effective.

The Commission's Order should state the foregoing conditions substantially as follows:

"The service authority and service classification herein granted are subject to the requirements of Section 392.200 RSMo., and are conditional and shall not be exercised until such time as tariffs for services have become effective."

The parties agree that the Applicant's switched exchange access services may be classified as competitive services. The parties further agree that the Applicant's switched exchange access services are subject to Section 392.200 RSMo. The parties recognize the pendency of Case No. TO-99-596, regarding access rates to be charged by competitive local exchange telecommunications companies. Unless otherwise determined by the Commission in Case No. TO-99-596, any increases in intrastate-switched access service rates above the maximum switched access service rates as set forth in Paragraph 4 herein shall be cost justified and shall be made pursuant to Sections 392.220 and 392.230 and not Sections 392.500 and 392.510 RSMo. The Commission's order should state the foregoing conditions substantially as follows:

"The service authority and service classification for switched exchange access granted herein is expressly conditioned on the continued applicability of Section 392.200 RSMo., and the requirement that any increases in switched access service rates above the maximum switched access service rates set forth herein shall be cost justified and shall be made pursuant to Sections 392.220 and 392.230 RSMo., and not Sections 392.500 and 392.510 RSMo."

11. CCS' request for a temporary waiver of 4 CSR 240-2.060(4)(H), which requires applications to include a proposed tariff with a 45-day effective date, is not opposed by the parties and should be granted because, at the time of the filing of the application, CCS does not yet have approved resale or interconnection agreements with SWB, Sprint and GTE. CCS agrees that at such time as all facts necessary for the development of tariffs become known, it will submit tariffs in this docket, with a minimum 45-day proposed effective date, to the Commission for its approval, together with the written disclosure as stipulated above. CCS shall serve notice to all parties and participants in this docket of the filing of its tariffs at the time they are filed with the Commission and serve them with the aforesaid written disclosure and shall upon request immediately provide any party with a copy of those tariffs. The Commission's order should state the temporary waiver of 4 CSR 240-2.060(4)(H), substantially as follows:

"Applicant's request for temporary waiver of 4 CSR 240-2.060(4)(H) is hereby granted for good cause in that applicant does not yet have approved resale or interconnection agreements with the incumbent local exchange carriers within whose service areas it seeks authority to provide service; provided, when applicant submits its tariffs in this docket to the Commission, such tariffs shall have a minimum of a 45-day effective date and the applicant shall serve written notice upon the parties hereto of such submittal, and shall provide copies of such tariffs to such parties immediately upon request. When filing its initial basic local tariff in this docket, the applicant shall also file and serve upon the parties hereto a written disclosure of: all resale and/or interconnection agreements which affect its Missouri service areas; all portions of its Missouri service areas for

which it does not have a resale and/or interconnection agreement with the incumbent local exchange carrier; and its explanation of why such a resale and/or interconnection agreement is unnecessary for any such areas.

12. CCS' request for waiver of the applications of the following rules and statutory provisions as they relate to the regulation of CCS' new services should be granted:

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

COMMISSION RULES

Section 392.210.2
Section 392.270
Section 392.280
Section 392.290.1
Section 392.300.2
Section 392.310
Section 392.320
Section 392.330
Section 392.340

4 CSR 240-10.020
4 CSR 240-30.040
4 CSR 240-35

13. This Stipulation and Agreement has resulted from extensive negotiations among the signatories and the terms hereof are interdependent. In the event the Commission does not adopt this Stipulation in total, then this Stipulation and Agreement shall be void and no signatory shall be bound by any of the agreements or provisions hereof. The Stipulations herein are specific to the resolution of this proceeding and are made without prejudice to the rights of the signatories to take other positions in other proceedings.

14. In the event the Commission accepts the specific terms of this Stipulation and Agreement, the parties and participants waive, with respect to the issues resolved herein: their respective rights pursuant to Section 536.070(2) and 536.080.1, RSMo. 1994, to present testimony, to cross-examine witnesses, and to present oral argument or written briefs; their respective rights to the reading of the transcript by the Commission

pursuant to Section 536.080.2 RSMo. 1994; and their respective rights to seek rehearing pursuant to Section 386.500 RSMo. 1994 and to seek judicial review pursuant to Section 386.510, RSMo. 1994. The parties agree to cooperate with the Applicant and with each other in presenting this Stipulation and Agreement for approval to the Commission and shall take no action, direct or indirect, in opposition to the request for approval of the CCS application made herein.

15. The Staff may submit a Staff Recommendation concerning matters not addressed in this Stipulation. In addition, if requested by the Commission, the Staff shall have the right to submit to the Commission a memorandum explaining its rationale for entering into this Stipulation and Agreement. Each party of record and participant herein shall be served with a copy of any memorandum and shall be entitled to submit to the Commission, within five (5) days of receipt of Staff's memorandum, a responsive memorandum which shall also be served on all parties and participants. All memoranda submitted by the parties shall be considered privileged in the same manner as settlement discussions under the Commission's rules, shall be maintained on a confidential basis by all parties and participants, and shall not become a part of the record of this proceeding or bind or prejudice the party submitting such memorandum in any future proceeding whether or not the Commission approves this Stipulation and Agreement. The contents of any memorandum provided by any party are its own and are not acquiesced in or otherwise adopted by the other signatories to the Stipulation and Agreement, whether or not the Commission approves and adopts this Stipulation and Agreement.


The Staff shall also have the right to provide, at any agenda meeting at which this Stipulation and Agreement is noticed to be considered by the Commission, whatever oral explanation the Commission requests, provided that the Staff shall, to the extent

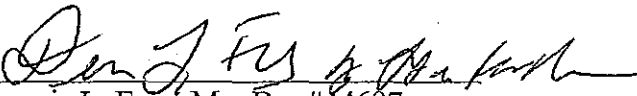
reasonably practicable, provide the other parties and participants with advance notice of when the Staff shall respond to the Commission's request for such explanation once such explanation is requested from the Staff. Staff's oral explanation shall be subject to public disclosure.

16. CCS will comply with all applicable Commission rules and regulations except those which are specifically waived by the Commission.

17. Finally, the Office of the Public Counsel, while not a signatory to this Stipulation and Agreement, has been contacted with regard to its filing and has offered no objection.

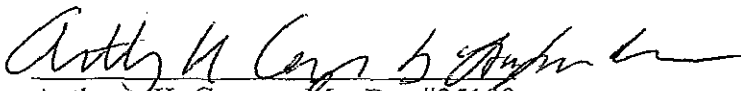
WHEREFORE, the signatories respectfully request the Commission to issue its Order approving the terms of this Stipulation and Agreement and issue its Order granting authority and classification and waiving certain statutes and rules as requested by CCS, subject to the conditions described above, as expeditiously as possible.


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FOR: Convergent Communications
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FOR: Staff of the Public Service
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FOR: Southwestern Bell Telephone Company

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing Stipulation and Agreement was served upon the following persons by depositing a true copy thereof in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, or by hand delivery, this 16 day of NOV, 1999.


Lance J.M. Steinhart

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RECEIVED

DEC 09 1999

COMMISSIONER OF COUNSEL
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION