

became 1-800-RECONEX on April 30, 1998. Sterling states that the two companies are identical in all respects and that they consist of the same employees, officers, directors, and conduct the identical business of the provision of prepaid local telecommunications services. Sterling contends that the surviving corporation, RECONEX, is virtually the same entity to which the Commission granted a certificate of service authority in October 1997, and that the tariff under which the service will be provided is identical to that submitted and approved for Sterling. In spite of the Articles of Merger, Sterling indicates that the transaction is a reorganization whereby an existing corporate entity is absorbed into a newly created corporate entity created by the same directors and sole shareholder.

On March 11, 1999, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) filed a memorandum recommending that the Commission issue an order approving Sterling's application and approving the tariff sheets to become effective March 22, 1999. The memorandum notes that the articles of merger submitted by Sterling seem to indicate that other than the name change and change in corporate domicile, Sterling's business operations are unaffected. Staff states that it believes that Sterling has complied with the Commission's December 3, 1998, order, and that Staff has no objection to the replacement tariff as amended.

The Commission has reviewed Sterling's original filing from October 1998, the amended replacement tariff sheets, the February 1999 application, and the Staff's memorandum. The Commission determines that the transaction is more of a corporate reorganization than a

merger, and that Sterling has essentially changed its name and redomiciled in another state. The Commission concludes that the change of name should be recognized and the amended tariff sheets should be approved.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the name change of Sterling International Funding, Inc. d/b/a/ RECONEX to 1-800-RECONEX, Inc., is recognized in all Commission records.

2. That the tariff sheets filed by Sterling International Funding, Inc. d/b/a/ RECONEX on November 9, 1998, and amended on November 10, 1998, are approved to become effective on March 22, 1999. The tariff sheets approved are:

1-800-RECONEX, Inc. MoPSC No. 1
Original Sheet No. 1 through Original Sheet No. 28

3. That this order shall become effective on March 18, 1999.

BY THE COMMISSION



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Vicky Ruth, 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 18th day of March, 1999.