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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of FairPoint)
Communications Corp. for a Certificate of)
Service Authority to Provide Basic Local)
Telecommunications Service in Portions of the)
State of Missouri and to Classify Said)
Services and the Company as Competitive.)

Case No. TA-2000-514

**ORDER GRANTING INTERVENTION, SETTING A PREHEARING CONFERENCE
AND DIRECTING FILING OF PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

FairPoint Communications Corp. (FairPoint) filed an application on February 22, 2000, for a certificate of service authority to provide basic local telecommunications service in the state of Missouri. FairPoint wishes to provide basic local telecommunications services in the exchanges currently served by Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBT), GTE Midwest Incorporated (GTE), and Sprint Missouri, Inc. (Sprint). On February 29, the Commission issued a Notice of Applications and Opportunity to Intervene, directing interested parties to file applications to intervene no later than March 30.

On March 8, SWBT filed an application to intervene. No other requests to intervene were filed. SWBT stated that it has a direct interest in the Commission's decision regarding FairPoint's application because FairPoint will be in direct competition with SWBT. SWBT states that its interest as a provider of basic local exchange service differs from that of the general public. SWBT further states that its

intervention would be in the public interest because of its extensive expertise and experience as a telecommunications provider.

The Commission has reviewed the application and finds that it is in substantial compliance with Commission rules regarding intervention and that the applicant has an interest in this matter that is different from that of the general public. The Commission concludes that the request for intervention should be granted and that the parties should file a proposed procedural schedule. In order to assist in the development of the procedural schedule and to clarify the issues in dispute, an early prehearing conference will be scheduled. The procedural schedule shall include dates for the filing of testimony and for a hearing. If no party requests a hearing, the Commission may grant the service authority and competitive classification requested without a hearing. State ex rel. Rex Deffenderfer Enterprises, Inc. v. Public Service Commission, 776 S.W.2D 494, 496 (Mo. App. 1989).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That Southwestern Bell Telephone Company is granted intervention in this case in accordance with 4 CSR 240-2.075(4).

2. That an early prehearing conference shall be held on May 22, 2000, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The prehearing conference shall be held at the Commission's offices on the fifth floor of the Harry S Truman State Office Building, 301 West High Street, Jefferson City, Missouri. Anyone wishing to attend who has special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the Missouri Public

Service Commission at least ten (10) days before the prehearing conference at: Consumer Services Hotline - 1-800-392-4211 or TDD Hotline - 1-800-829-7541.

3. That the parties shall file a proposed procedural schedule no later than May 30, 2000. The procedural schedule shall include dates for the filing of testimony and for a hearing.

4. That this order shall become effective on April 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 4th day of April, 2000.