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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of GTE Midwest)
Incorporated and GTE Arkansas Incorporated for)
Approval of Interconnection Agreement With) Case No. TO-99-211
United States Telecommunications, Inc. Pursuant)
to Section 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act)
of 1996.)

ORDER AND NOTICE

On November 10, 1998, GTE Midwest Incorporated and GTE Arkansas Incorporated (together referred to as GTE) and United States Telecommunications, Inc. filed an application for approval of an interconnection agreement under the provisions of the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act). The applicants state that there are no unresolved issues and that the agreement complies with Section 252(e) of the Act in that it is not discriminatory to nonparty carriers and is consistent with the public interest. The applicants request expeditious treatment of the agreement.

The Act provides that an interconnection agreement must be approved unless the state commission finds that the agreement discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement, or that implementation of the agreement is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity. 47 U.S.C. § 252(e).

The Commission finds that proper persons should be allowed 20 days from the issuance of this order to file a motion for hearing or an application to participate without intervention. Participation

may be permitted for the limited purpose of filing comments addressing whether this agreement meets the federal standards for approval of interconnection agreements. The requirement of a hearing is met when an opportunity to be heard 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).

Section 252(e)(4) of the Act provides that if the Commission has not approved an agreement within 90 days after submission, the agreement shall be deemed approved. Therefore, the Commission will proceed with this case expeditiously and, if there are no requests for a hearing, relief may be granted based on the verified petition. The Commission finds that notice of this application should be sent to all interexchange and local exchange telecommunications companies.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the Records Department of the Commission shall send notice to all interexchange and local exchange telecommunications companies.

2. That any party wishing to request a hearing or to participate without intervention in this matter shall file an application no later than December 23, 1998, with:

Dale Hardy Roberts, Secretary
Missouri Public Service Commission
Post Office Box 360
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

and send copies to:

Tracy D. Pagliara
GTE Service Corporation
601 Monroe Street, Suite 304
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

and:

Office of the Public Counsel
Post Office Box 7800
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

3. That the Staff of the Commission shall file a memorandum advising either approval or rejection of this agreement and giving the reasons therefor no later than January 19, 1999.

4. That this Order shall become effective on December 3, 1998.

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 3rd day of December, 1998.