BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Request of AT&T)
Communications of the Southwest, Inc., to)
Case No. TO-99-615
Terminate Carrier of Last Resort Obligation.

ORDER REGARDING PARTICIPATION

On June 29, 1999, AT&T Communications of the Southwest, Inc. (AT&T), filed a pleading requesting that the Commission terminate its obligation under Section 392.460, RSMo, to be the basic interexchange telecommunications services provider of last resort.

On August 10, 1999, GTE Midwest Incorporated (GTE Midwest) and GTE Communications Corporation (GTECC; jointly GTE) filed a joint application to participate without intervention. That application was granted by Order of November 23, 1999. Rule 4 CSR 240-2.075(6) provides that "[p]articipation shall be to the degree permitted by the presiding officer." The presiding officer set the degree of GTE's participation as an item for discussion at the prehearing conference scheduled for December 6, 1999, in order to give the parties an opportunity to be heard on the matter.

At the prehearing conference, GTE stated that it sought to make an opening statement and to file briefs. No party objected to GTE's proposal. Therefore, the same will be granted.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

- 1. That the participation herein of GTE Midwest Incorporated and GTE Communications Corporation shall be limited to making an opening statement and filing briefs.
- 2. That this order shall become effective on December 16, 1999.

BY THE COMMISSION

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Dale Hardy Roberts

Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(SEAL)

Kevin A. Thompson, Deputy Chief 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 6th day of December, 1999.

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