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# Southwestern Bell

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February 17, 1999

The Honorable Dale Hardy Roberts Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge Missouri Public Service Commission 301 West High Street, Floor 5A Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

FEB 1 7 1999

Missouri Public Service Commission

Re: Case No. T0-99-227

Dear Judge Roberts:

Enclosed, for filing in the above-captioned case, are an original and fourteen copies of Response of Southwestern Bell Telephone Company to AT&T's Motion to Require Briefing and Allow for Supplemental Testimony.

Thank you for bringing this matter to the attention of the Commission.

Very truly yours,

Anthony K. Conroy Am

Anthony K. Conroy

Enclosure

cc: All Attorneys of Record

• FILED FEB 1 7 1999 BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION COMPUSIC

### OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

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Application of Southwestern Bell Telephone Company to Provide Notice of Intent to File an Application for Authorization to Provide In-Region InterLATA Services Originating in Missouri Pursuant to Section 271 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996

Case No. TO-99-227

## RESPONSE OF SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY TO AT&T'S MOTION TO REQUIRE BRIEFING AND ALLOW FOR SUPPLEMENTAL TESTIMONY

COMES NOW Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBT) and for its

Response to AT&T Communications of the Southwest, Inc.'s, TCG St. Louis, Inc.'s and

TCG Kansas City, Inc.'s (collectively AT&T's) Motion to Require Briefing and Allow for

Supplemental Testimony concerning the United States Supreme Court's decision in

AT&T Corp. v. Iowa Utilities Board, states as follows:

1. AT&T's latest filing appears to be designed to further delay the procedural

schedule established by the Commission in this case. As the Commission is aware,

AT&T has refused to provide basic local exchange telephone service to business and

residential customers in Missouri. By seeking to delay this proceeding further, AT&T

seeks to prevent the benefit of further interLATA competition for Missouri consumers.

AT&T's position is self-serving, procedurally deficient and substantively without merit.

2. AT&T notes that the Supreme Court issued its decision in <u>AT&T Corp. v.</u> <u>Iowa Utilities Board</u>, 67 U.S.L.W. 4104, \_\_\_\_U.S. \_\_\_\_(Nos. 97-826 <u>et al.</u>) on January 25, 1999. That same day, AT&T filed a letter with the Commission advising that it believed the Supreme Court's decision would "impact significantly" the substantive issues presented in this case. In its letter, AT&T stated that it would "present promptly, by separate motion, a formal request for such actions as may be appropriate to apply [the] Supreme Court ruling to SWBT's pending application." AT&T, however, did not "promptly present" any such motion. Instead, AT&T waited two more weeks before advising the Commission that further delay is necessary! Coming on the eve of the hearing established by the Commission in this case, the request is wholly inappropriate.

3. Even now, two weeks later, AT&T's motion contains no analysis of AT&T's interpretation of the Supreme Court's decision, or any change of position which AT&T would make in its prefiled rebuttal testimony. Nor has AT&T advised the Commission or the parties to this proceeding whether its rebuttal testimony sufficiently addressed the issue from AT&T's perspective. Instead, AT&T's filing seeks to impose an unnecessary burden on SWBT and all other parties to this case to make additional filings followed by unspecified supplemental rounds of testimony. According to AT&T, scheduling of the hearing in the case should be held in abeyance until SWBT makes a filing to AT&T's satisfaction.

On February 10, 1999, the Commission issued its <u>Order Granting</u>
<u>Interventions, Granting Participation, Requesting Briefing of Legal Issues, Notice of Ex</u>
<u>Parte Contacts, and Notice of Time to Respond</u> in this case. In this Order, the
Commission, on its own motion, directed the parties to file legal memoranda on or before

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February 17, 1999, indicating what effect, if any, the Supreme Court's decision in AT&T Corp. v. Iowa Utilities Board should have on the procedural schedule previously established in this case. SWBT believes the Commission's measured response to the Supreme Court's decision is completely appropriate, and welcomes the opportunity to explain to the Commission why the decision should <u>not</u> further delay the procedural schedule in this case. Contemporaneous with the filing of this response to AT&T's motion, SWBT is filing its legal memorandum as directed by the Commission, addressing the effect of the Supreme Court's decision. SWBT incorporates its legal memorandum herein by this reference. In summary, however, SWBT believes that the framework for local competition is sufficiently in place for this Commission (and the FCC) to take the final steps toward full interLATA competition in Missouri. Together with this Commission's previous arbitration decisions and SWBT's voluntarily negotiated interconnection agreements which have been approved by this Commission, the holdings of <u>AT&T Corp. v. Iowa Utilities Board</u> provide a solid foundation for approval of SWBT's Section 271 application. Nothing in the Supreme Court's opinion requires or even suggests that this Commission should permit self-interested parties such as AT&T to delay this proceeding further.

5. This case was instituted by SWBT's filing of its application on November 20, 1998. The Commission has, consistent with its prior orders, endeavored to establish a procedural schedule which would permit it to complete the hearing process within 120 days. AT&T's motion would result in a new and unspecified hearing schedule, with substantial delays built in to accomplish AT&T's desires. This proposal is inappropriate, particularly given AT&T's continued failure to make any meaningful offering to business

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and residential customers in Missouri. The delay which AT&T seeks would simply protect its continued profit from interLATA services, free from the substantial competition which SWBT would provide.

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As demonstrated in SWBT's legal memorandum submitted in response to 6. the Commission's February 10, 1999, Order, the Supreme Court's decision in AT&T Corp. v. Iowa Utilities Board primarily addresses four areas: (1) 47 C.F.R. 51.315(b), which precludes the disassembly of network elements currently combined in the network; (2) 47 C.F.R. 51.319, which lists the unbundled network elements which the FCC required incumbent local exchange companies (ILECs) to offer; (3) 47 C.F.R. 809, which addresses the right to "pick and choose" from another competitive local exchange company's (CLEC's) interconnection agreement; and (4) the jurisdiction of the FCC to impose certain TELRIC pricing rules. These issues are already addressed in existing contracts between SWBT and CLECs, including AT&T. As SWBT made clear in its direct testimony filed in this case, it will continue to comply with the terms of these contracts, subject to any modifications. These modifications may result from voluntary negotiations or from regulatory or judicial processes. Accordingly, SWBT has already addressed the issues which AT&T attempts to raise in order to accomplish its desire of delay.

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WHEREFORE, for all of the foregoing reasons, SWBT requests the Commission

to deny AT&T's Motion to Require Briefing and Allow for Supplemental Testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

#### SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY

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#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing document were served to all parties on the Service List by first-class postage prepaid, U.S. Mail on February  $17_{1}$ , 1999.

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