



**GTE Service
Corporation**

601 Monroe Street
Suite 304
Jefferson City, MO 65101

November 18, 1999

VIA AIRBORNE EXPRESS

FILED

NOV 18 1999

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
Missouri Public Service Commission
301 W. High Street, Room 530
Jefferson City, MO 65101

**Missouri Public
Service Commission**

70-2000-333

Subject: APPLICATION OF GTE MIDWEST INCORPORATED AND GTE
ARKANSAS INCORPORATED FOR APPROVAL OF AN
INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT WITH CHOCTAW
COMMUNICATIONS, INC. D/B/A SMOKE SIGNAL
COMMUNICATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 252(e) OF THE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing are the original and fourteen (14) copies of the Application for Approval of an Interconnection Agreement on behalf of GTE Midwest Incorporated and GTE Arkansas Incorporated with Choctaw Communications, Inc. d/b/a Smoke Signal Communications. As directed by the Commission on January 4, 1999, only five (5) copies of the approved Interconnection Agreement are enclosed with this filing.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Tracy D. Pagliara /Bak

Tracy D. Pagliara

TP:bk

Enc.

c: Service List
C. Little/D. Evans - Jefferson City, MO

FILED

NOV 18 1999

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

Missouri Public
Service Commission

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
GTE MIDWEST INCORPORATED AND GTE)
ARKANSAS INCORPORATED FOR APPROVAL)
OF INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT WITH)
CHOCTAW COMMUNICATIONS, INC. D/B/A)
SMOKE SIGNAL COMMUNICATIONS)
PURSUANT TO SECTION 252(e) OF THE)
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996)

CASE NO.

70-2000-333

**APPLICATION OF GTE MIDWEST INCORPORATED AND GTE ARKANSAS
INCORPORATED FOR APPROVAL OF INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT**

COMES NOW, GTE Midwest Incorporated and GTE Arkansas Incorporated ("GTE") and file this Application for Approval of an Interconnection Agreement (the "Agreement") between GTE and Choctaw Communications, Inc. d/b/a Smoke Signal Communications ("SMOKE SIGNAL"), pursuant to Section 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("the Federal Act") and would respectfully show the Missouri Public Service Commission (the "Commission") the following:

I. INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT REACHED

GTE presents to this Commission for approval an agreement negotiated and executed pursuant to the terms of the Federal Act (Agreement, Attachment 1). After weeks of intensive good faith negotiations to address all of the complex issues involved in such an agreement, the parties have executed the Interconnection Agreement between GTE and SMOKE SIGNAL on November 5, 1999, and filed herewith, together with the two (2) appendices incorporated therein.

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II. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL

GTE seeks the Commission's approval of the Agreement, consistent with the provisions of the Federal Act. GTE believes that the implementation of this Agreement complies fully with Section 252(e) of the Federal Act because the Agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity and does not discriminate against any telecommunications carrier. The Agreement promotes diversity in providers, provides interconnectivity, and increases customer choices for telecommunications services.

GTE respectfully requests that the Commission grant expeditious approval of this Agreement, without change, suspension or other delay in its implementation. This is a bilateral agreement, reached as a result of negotiations and compromise between competitors, and the parties do not believe a docket or intervention by other parties is necessary or appropriate.

III. STANDARD FOR REVIEW

The statutory standards of review are set forth in Section 252(e) of the Federal Act which provides as follows:

Section 252(e) of the Federal Act:

(e) APPROVAL BY STATE COMMISSION

- (1) **APPROVAL REQUIRED.** Any interconnection agreement adopted by negotiation or arbitration shall be submitted for approval to the state commission. A state commission to which an agreement is submitted to shall approve or reject the agreement, with written findings as to any deficiencies.

(2) GROUND FOR REJECTION. The State Commission may only reject -

(A) an agreement (or any portion thereof) adopted by negotiation under subsection (a) if it finds that -

(i) the agreement (or portion thereof) discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement; or

(ii) the implementation of such agreement or portion is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity; or

IV. MISSOURI LEGISLATION

The negotiated and executed Agreement is consistent with the Missouri Legislation, Senate Bill No. 507, which became effective on August 28, 1996.

V. CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, GTE respectfully prays that the Commission approve the Agreement expeditiously.

Respectfully submitted,

GTE MIDWEST INCORPORATED
GTE ARKANSAS INCORPORATED

By: Tracy D. Pagliara /Bak
Tracy D. Pagliara, Bar #40126
601 Monroe Street, Suite 304
Jefferson City, MO 65101-3202
(972) 718-6362
FAX (972) 718-1250

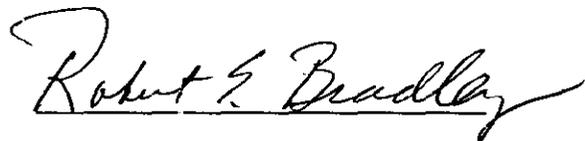
THEIR ATTORNEY

VERIFICATION

I, Robert E. Bradley, under penalty of perjury, certify as follows:

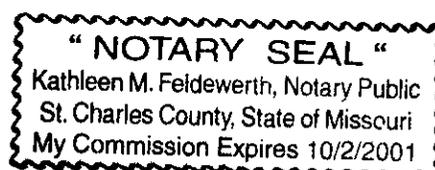
I am Vice President of GTE Midwest Incorporated and GTE Arkansas Incorporated. I am authorized to make this verification on behalf of GTE Midwest Incorporated and GTE Arkansas Incorporated. I have read the foregoing "Application of GTE Midwest Incorporated and GTE Arkansas Incorporated for Approval of Interconnection Agreement with Choctaw Communications, Inc. d/b/a Smoke Signal Communications pursuant to Sections 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996" and know the contents thereof, and the facts stated therein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Executed in the State of Missouri on this 17th day of November, 1999.



Robert E. Bradley
Vice President
GTE Midwest Incorporated and
GTE Arkansas Incorporated

Sworn before me and subscribed in my presence by Robert E. Bradley this 17th day of November, 1999.


Notary Public

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I do hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was mailed via Airborne Express to Dale Hardy Roberts, Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge, Missouri Public Service Commission, 301 W. High Street Room 530, Jefferson City, MO 65101 and was mailed, postage prepaid, this 17th day of November, 1999 the following:

Office of the Public Counsel
301 W. High Street, Room 250
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Ms. Maria J. Hanley
Regulatory Administrator
Choctaw Communications, Inc.
d/b/a Smoke Signal Communications
8400 South Gessner
Houston, TX 77074


Bethel A. Korenak