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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of REN-TEL)
Communications, Inc. for a Certificate of)
Service Authority to Provide Basic Local) **Case No. TA-98-324**
Telecommunications Service in Portions of the)
State of Missouri.)
)

ORDER GRANTING INTERVENTION AND DIRECTING FILING
OF PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

REN-TEL Communications, Inc. (REN-TEL) filed an application on February 2, 1998, for a certificate of service authority to provide basic local telecommunications service in the State of Missouri under 4 CSR 240-2.060(4). REN-TEL wishes to provide resold services in all the exchanges currently served by Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBT), GTE Midwest Incorporated, and Sprint Missouri, Inc. The Commission issued an order and notice, directing interested parties to file applications to intervene no later than March 9.

On June 24 SWBT filed an application to intervene out of time. SWBT stated that it became aware of REN-TEL's application and the intervention deadline after it entered into negotiations with REN-TEL on a stipulation under which SWBT would support REN-TEL's application. SWBT states that the negotiations have been completed and, therefore, granting its intervention will not delay this proceeding. SWBT further states that its intervention will not prejudice any party and that REN-TEL does not object to the intervention.

SWBT states that it has a direct interest in the Commission's decision in this case because it provides basic local exchange services

and will be in direct competition with this company if the certificate is granted. SWBT argues that no other party will adequately protect its interests in this matter and that its intervention would be in the public interest because of SWBT's expertise and experience in the telecommunications industry.

The Commission has reviewed the application and finds that, with the exception of timeliness, it is in substantial compliance with Commission rules regarding intervention and that the applicant has an interest in this matter which is different from that of the general public. The Commission determines that allowing SWBT to intervene out of time will not delay these proceedings or prejudice any party. The Commission concludes that the request for intervention should be granted and that the parties should file a proposed procedural schedule. The procedural schedule must include either dates for the filing of testimony and for a hearing, or a date for the filing of a Stipulation and Agreement. 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).

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

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

2. That the parties shall file a proposed procedural schedule no later than September 2, 1998. The procedural schedule shall include either dates for the filing of testimony and for a hearing, or a date for the filing of a Stipulation and Agreement.

3. That this order shall be effective on August 3, 1998.

BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dale Hardy Roberts".

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Nancy Dippell, 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 August, 1998.

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COMMISSION COUNSEL
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION