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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Joint Application of)
Southwestern Bell Telephone Company and)
U.S. Cellular Corporation for Approval of) CASE NO. TO-98-37
Interconnection Agreement Under the)
Telecommunications Act of 1996.)

ORDER GRANTING PARTICIPATION WITHOUT INTERVENTION

Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBT) and U.S. Cellular Corporation (U.S. Cellular) filed an application with the Commission on July 28, 1997, for approval of an interconnection agreement between them. The Commission issued an order which established a procedural schedule and directed interested parties to file applications to participate no later than August 20. The Commission ordered that only participation, and not intervention, would be permitted in this case.

The Small Telephone Company Group¹, Fidelity Telephone Company and Bourbeuse Telephone Company (collectively Fidelity) filed timely applications for participation.

The Small Telephone Company Group and Fidelity state that they are requesting participation without intervention because of concerns that the interconnection agreement may have an impact on their operations or their existing relationships with SWBT. More specifically, applicants

¹For purposes of this proceeding, the Small Telephone Company Group is comprised of BPS Telephone Company, Cass County Telephone Company, Citizens Telephone Company of Higginsville, Missouri, Inc., Craw-Kan Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Ellington Telephone Company, Grand River Mutual Telephone Corporation, Green Hills Telephone Corporation, Holway Telephone Company, Iamo Telephone Company, Kingdom Telephone Company, KLM Telephone Company, Lathrop Telephone Company, Mark Twain Rural Telephone Company, McDonald County Telephone Company, Miller Telephone Company, New Florence Telephone Company, New London Telephone Company, Orchard Farm Telephone Company, Oregon Farmers Mutual Telephone Company, Steelville Telephone Exchange, Inc., Stoutland Telephone Company.

state that they are concerned about the effect the proposed interconnection agreement with a wireless carrier may have upon agreements between wireless carriers and other local exchange companies in light of the Commission's ruling in Case No. TC-96-112, and in light of SWBT's tariff filing designed to revise its wireless carrier interconnection service tariff in Case No. TT-97-524. Applicants thus contend that they have an interest in this proceeding which is different from that of the general public, and that their participation in this docket will serve the public interest.

The Commission has reviewed the application for participation filed by the Small Telephone Company Group and Fidelity, and finds that it is in substantial compliance with Commission rules regarding participation without intervention, and that the applicants each have an interest in this matter which is different from that of the general public. The Commission thus concludes that the requests for participation should be granted.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the following parties are granted participation without intervention in this case in accordance with 4 CSR 240-2.075(5):

The Small Telephone Company Group

(BPS Telephone Company, Cass County Telephone Company, Citizens Telephone Company of Higginsville, Missouri, Inc., Craw-Kan Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Ellington Telephone Company, Grand River Mutual Telephone Corporation, Green Hills Telephone Corporation, Holway Telephone Company, Iamo Telephone Company, Kingdom Telephone Company, KLM Telephone Company, Lathrop Telephone Company, Mark Twain Rural Telephone Company, McDonald County Telephone Company, Miller Telephone Company, New Florence Telephone Company, New London Telephone Company, Orchard Farm Telephone Company, Oregon Farmers Mutual Telephone Company, Steelville Telephone Exchange, Inc., Stoutland Telephone Company); and

Fidelity Telephone Company and Bourbeuse Telephone Company.

2. That this order shall become effective on August 26, 1997.

BY THE COMMISSION



Cecil I. Wright
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

Elaine E. Bensavage, Administrative 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 26th day of August, 1997.