

B.
MF
20

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a Session of the Public Service Commission held at its office in Jefferson City on the 12th day of August, 1998.

In the Matter of the Application of)	
EZ Talk Communications, L.L.C. for a)	
Certificate of Service Authority to)	
Provide Basic Local Telecommunications)	<u>Case No. TA-98-184</u>
Service in Portions of the State of)	
Missouri and to Classify Said Services)	
as Competitive.)	

ORDER APPROVING TARIFF

The Commission granted to EZ Talk Communications, L.L.C. (EZ Talk) a certificate of service authority to provide basic local telecommunications services in Missouri by order issued on March 11, 1998. The order waived the filing of a 45-day tariff as required by 4 CSR 240-2.060(4)(H) until 30 days after EZ Talk had entered into a Commission-approved interconnection agreement that would enable it to provide basic local exchange services. EZ Talk's certificate of service authority will become effective upon the effective date of its approved tariffs.

The Commission approved a resale (interconnection) agreement between EZ Talk and Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBT) on August 6. EZ Talk filed tariff sheets on July 1, with an effective date of August 15, reflecting the rates, rules, and regulations it will use and the services it will offer. The effective date was extended to August 19. EZ Talk filed substitute sheets on July 30 and August 5 in order to make clarifications and bring its tariff into compliance with

Commission rules and regulations. EZ Talk also filed a representative copy of its proposed Statement of Customer's Rights and Responsibilities on August 5. EZ Talk is limiting its service offerings to those SWBT local calling areas specified in its proposed tariff because EZ Talk does not yet have interconnection or resale agreements with GTE Midwest Incorporated (GTE) or Sprint Missouri, Inc. (Sprint), the other incumbent local exchange carriers in whose territory EZ Talk obtained its certificate of service authority.

The Commission's Staff reviewed the tariff sheets and filed a memorandum on August 7 recommending that the Commission approve them as amended by the substitute sheets. EZ Talk customers would be able to call 911 and toll-free 800 numbers, but would not have access to long distance or other toll services, collect calls, operator-assisted calls, third number billed calls or services which may be billed to the customer's telephone number. Staff stated that EZ Talk intends to offer service at a rate of \$49.99 per month plus all applicable taxes, assessments and surcharges. EZ Talk offers its services on a prepaid basis and does not require deposits from its customers. Customers may pay for service with cash, personal checks or credit cards. EZ Talk would charge a \$10.00 return check fee when payment is made with a bad check. The optional features of Call Waiting, Call Forwarding, Three-Way Calling, Unlisted Number, Call Return, Speed Dial, Auto Redial, Call Blocker and Anonymous Call Rejection are each available for a one-time activation fee of \$3.00 plus a monthly fee ranging from \$3.00 to \$5.00. Caller ID is priced at \$10.00 per month plus a \$3.00 installation fee. Call Trace is available at a charge of \$1.00 per activation. When a customer initiates service, the customer would be required to pay \$49.99

for the first month's service and a non-recurring service initiation fee of \$40.00. Staff recommended that the tariff be approved as amended to become effective on August 19.

The rights and responsibilities of EZ Talk's customers are set forth in a "Statement of Customer's Rights and Responsibilities" (Customer Statement) that is mailed to them when they initiate service. The installation fee and first month's charges are fully refundable for ten business days following the date on which the Customer Statement is mailed. This Customer Statement sets forth all rates and charges, payment procedures, and procedures for reconnection of service and handling inquiries, and explains that toll and caller-paid information services are blocked.

The Commission has reviewed the tariff sheets and Staff's recommendation and finds that the tariff sheets, as amended, conform to the Commission's order of March 11 and should be approved to become effective on August 19. The Commission concludes that the conditions stated in the March 11 order for EZ Talk's certificate of service authority to provide basic local telecommunications service have been satisfied and the certificate will take effect on August 19.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the tariff filed by EZ Talk Communications, L.L.C. on July 1, 1998, is approved as amended to become effective on August 19, 1998. The tariff approved is:

EZ Talk Communications, L.L.C. Tariff No. 1
Original Title Page
Original Pages 1 through 36

2. That the certificate of service authority granted to EZ Talk Communications, L.L.C. on March 11, 1998, to provide basic local telecommunications services shall become effective on August 19, 1998.

3. That this order shall become effective on August 19, 1998.

4. That this case shall be closed on August 25, 1998.

BY THE COMMISSION



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Crumpton, Schemenauer and Drainer, CC., concur.
Lumpe, Ch., and Murray, CC., absent.

Randles, Regulatory Law Judge

RECEIVED
AUG 18 1998
COMMISSION COUNSEL
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION