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October 27, 1998

FILED

OCT 27 1998

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Missouri Public
Service Commission

Re: In the Matter of an Investigation into the Provision of Community Optional Calling Service in Missouri; Case No. TW-97-333

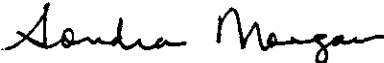
Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed please find the original plus fourteen (14) copies of Notice of Intent to Send Customer Notice Regarding Discontinuance of Community Optional Service for filing on behalf of the Small Telephone Company Group in the above referenced matter. Please bring this matter to the attention of the appropriate Commission personnel. A copy of this filing is being sent to all parties of record.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

BRYDON, SWEARENGEN & ENGLAND P.C.

By: 
Sondra B. Morgan

SBM/k

Enclosures

cc: Office of Public Counsel
All Parties of Record

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of an Investigation into to)
Provision of Community Optional Calling)
Service in Missouri.)

Case No. TW-97-333

FILED
OCT 27 1998
Missouri Public
Service Commission

NOTICE OF INTENT TO SEND CUSTOMER NOTICE
REGARDING DISCONTINUANCE OF COMMUNITY OPTIONAL SERVICE

Comes now the Small Telephone Company Group ("STCG") and for its Notice of Intent to Send Customer Notice Regarding Discontinuance of Community Optional Service ("COS") states to the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") as follows:

1. On October 1, 1998, the Commission issued an Order Further Extending Deadline for Mandatory Elimination of Community Optional Service. This Order removed the deadline for mandatory elimination of COS in Missouri from February 28, 1999, to a date to be determined after the final resolution of the Primary Toll Carrier ("PTC") Plan. However, in this Order the Commission also encouraged companies which were able to do so to continue to work toward the elimination of COS and the replacement of that service with a competitive cost-based service.

2. GTE Midwest Incorporated ("GTE") and Sprint Missouri, Inc. ("Sprint"), both have Commission approved plans for the implementation of intraLATA presubscription ("ILP"), and those companies have interpreted the Commission's order as allowing GTE and Sprint to go forward with implementation of their plans which will result in the elimination of COS in those exchanges where GTE and Sprint serve the "target" exchange.

3. On October 5, the Mid-Missouri Group ("MMG") filed a Motion for Clarification pointing out that the Commission had previously linked the elimination of COS with the implementation of presubscription in a COS petitioning exchange. GTE's ILP plan would result

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in implementation of presubscription in COS target exchanges on December 9, 1998, and both GTE and Sprint plans would eliminate COS prior to the SC's implementation of ILP. Therefore, the MMG requested clarification so that the Secondary Carriers ("SCs") would know if COS routes would be eliminated prior to final resolution of the PTC issues. On October 6, 1998, the Office of Public Counsel joined in that Motion for Clarification.

4. On October 9, 1998, the STCG filed a Motion to Stay Elimination of Community Optional Service in Certain Exchanges Served by the Small Telephone Company Group pointing out that GTE's and Sprint's plans to eliminate COS routes will result in the elimination of COS routes involving those companies and STCG exchanges. Thus, COS would be eliminated in STCG exchanges before the implementation of ILP and before the final resolution of the PTC Plan. The STCG also requested that the Commission stay the elimination of COS to coincide with the advent of intraLATA presubscription in the STCG's exchanges, and that the Commission act on its motion by November 1.

5. Those members of the STCG whose companies will be affected by the implementation of the GTE and Sprint plans realize that if the Commission does not act to stay the elimination of COS in those exchanges, it will be necessary for them to notify their customers of the discontinuance of COS. GTE and Southwestern Bell Telephone Company have filed tariffs with proposed elimination dates, and it is our understanding that GTE has notified its COS customers of the proposed elimination. Therefore, the companies wish to notify the Commission of their intent to notify their customers of the discontinuance of COS using the notice attached to this pleading as Attachment A and of their plan to send this notice at least thirty days before the proposed elimination dates.

Respectfully submitted,

Sondra B. Morgan

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Attorneys for the
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document was mailed, United States Mail, postage prepaid, this 27th day of October, 1998, to:

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Deputy General Counsel
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DISCONTINUATION OF COMMUNITY OPTIONAL SERVICE (COS)

On October 1, 1998, the Missouri Public Service Commission issued an Order Further Extending Deadline for Mandatory Elimination of Community Optional Service. This Order removed the deadline for mandatory elimination of COS in Missouri from February 28, 1999, to a date to be determined after the final resolution of the Primary Toll Carrier Plan. However, in this Order the Commission also encouraged companies which were able to do so to continue to work toward the elimination of COS and the replacement of that service with a competitive cost-based service.

GTE Midwest Incorporated and Sprint Missouri, Inc., both have Commission approved plans for the implementation of intraLATA presubscription, and those companies have interpreted the Commission's order as allowing GTE and Sprint to go forward with implementation of their plans which will result in the elimination of COS in those exchanges where GTE and Sprint serve the "target" exchange. Accordingly, on [December 9, 1998,] COS from [petitioning exchange] to [target exchange] will be discontinued.

As you near [date], you need to:

Be sure to notify everyone who uses your phone service that after [date] calls to [target exchange] will be charged the applicable long-distance rates.

Inform those who usually call you from [target exchange] that calls to you after [date] will be charged the applicable long-distance rates to the caller.

Check with your local phone company or long-distance carrier for alternative programs that may best meet your calling patterns.

If you have questions regarding COS, you may contact [local phone company] at [tel. #], the Missouri Public Service Commission at 1-800-392-4211, or the Office of Public Counsel at (573) 751-4857.