BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Tari Christ d/b/a ANJ Communications, et al.,)
Complainants,)
v.) <u>Case No. TC-2005-0067</u>
Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, L.P. d/b/a Southwestern Bell Telephone Company,)))
Respondent)

ORDER GRANTING RECONSIDERATION AND FURTHER SUSPENDING PROCEEDINGS

Issue Date: August 22, 2011 Effective Date: August 22, 2011

On August 27, 2004, Tari Christ d/b/a ANJ Communications, and 27 other Missouri private payphone service providers, filed a Complaint against Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, L.P. d/b/a Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (n/k/a AT&T Missouri). Before AT&T Missouri filed its answer, the parties agreed to mediate their dispute. For that reason, on November 10, 2004, the Commission stayed this proceeding to allow the parties an opportunity to mediate.

Because this case has been sitting on the Commission's docket for nearly seven years with no discernable progress toward resolution, the Commission issued an order on July 28, 2011, that directed AT&T Missouri to file its answer by August 29, 2011. On August 8, 2011, the Complainants filed a motion asking the Commission to reconsider its order directing AT&T Missouri to file its answer.

The Complainants explain that despite the inactivity regarding the complaint at this Commission, the issues regarding compensation to payphone providers that are the subject of the complaint have been addressed over the past seven years by the FCC. The FCC has not yet resolved those issues, but the Complainants are hopeful that a resolution may be forthcoming soon. The Complainants further explain that the Commission cannot effectively address the issues raised in the complaint until the FCC makes its ruling.

For those reasons, the Complainants ask the Commission to reconsider its order that would require AT&T Missouri to file its answer, and to instead suspend any action on its complaint for an additional 180 days. AT&T Missouri has not responded to the Complainant's motion for reconsideration.

The Commission is persuaded by the Complainants' argument and will set aside its July 28, 2011 order that directed AT&T Missouri to file its answer by August 29, 2011. The Commission will suspend proceedings regarding this complaint until February 17, 2012. The Commission previously ordered the parties to file monthly progress reports regarding the status of the complaint. Such progress reports are not necessary and the Commission will no longer require their filing.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

- 1. The Commission's July 28, 2011 Order Directing AT&T Missouri to File its Answer is set aside.
- 2. Proceedings in this complaint case are suspended until February 17, 2012, or until further order from the Commission.
 - 3. The requirement that the parties file monthly progress reports is eliminated.

4. This order shall become effective immediately upon issuance.

BY THE COMMISSION

Steven C. Reed Secretary

(SEAL)

Morris L. Woodruff, Chief Regulatory Law Judge, by delegation of authority pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri, on this 22nd day of August, 2011.