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Missouri Public Service Commission

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April 25, 1997

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APR 25 1997

Mr. Cecil I. Wright
Executive Secretary
Missouri Public Service Commission
P. O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

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

Dear Mr. Wright:

Enclosed for filing in the above-captioned case are an original and fourteen (14) conformed copies of Staff's Response to Southwestern Bell Telephone Company's Motion to Shorten Time for Discovery Responses or for Leave to Supplement Rebuttal Testimony.

This filing has been mailed or hand-delivered this date to all counsel of record.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours

Cherlyn D. McGowan Assistant General Counsel

573-751-3966

573-751-9285 (Fax)

CDM/clw Enclosure

cc:

Counsel of Record

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of an Investigation into the)	
Provision of Community Optional Calling)	Comp No. TW/ 07 222
Service in Missouri	ń	Case No. TW-97-333

STAFF'S RESPONSE TO SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY'S MOTION TO SHORTEN TIME FOR DISCOVERY RESPONSES OR FOR LEAVE TO SUPPLEMENT REBUTTAL TESTIMONY

Comes now the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission by and through its Office of the General Counsel and for its Response to Southwestern Bell Telephone Company's (SWBT's) Motion to Shorten Time for Discovery Responses or for Leave to Supplement Rebuttal Testimony (SWBT's Motion) respectfully states as follows:

- On March 7, 1997, the Commission issued its Order Establishing Docket in this case.
 In that order the Commission adopted an abbreviated procedural schedule.
- 2. In Compliance with the adopted procedural schedule the parties filed direct testimony on April 11, 1997. This filing included the direct testimony of Bob Schoonmaker filed on behalf of the Small Telephone Company Group (Small TCG). Attached to Mr. Schoonmaker's direct testimony was Schedule RCS-2 which was marked highly confidential and contained information relating to the number of business and residential community optional service (COS) lines in service for various exchanges as well as the number of COS minutes used back and forth between the petitioned and targeted exchanges.

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MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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- 3. Based upon its review of the numbers contained in Mr. Schoonmaker's highly confidential Schedule RCS-2, the Staff believes that there may be a problem with the factual data or there may be inappropriate use of COS, because of the unexpectedly high minutes of use from the target exchange back to the petitioning exchange on some COS routes. In an attempt to clarify the these numerical anomalies the Staff sent several follow-up data requests (DRs) to the Small TCG. It is important that the reasons for this unexpected data be investigated so that the best information possible can be submitted to the Commission for consideration.
- 4. On April 18, 1997, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, Inc. (SWBT) filed its Motion to Shorten Time for Discovery Responses or for Leave to Supplement Rebuttal Testimony (SWBT's Motion). In SWBT's Motion it asked the Commission to either: a) shorten the DR response time to enable SWBT to obtain responses to follow-up DRs in time to include any information received in its rebuttal testimony which is currently due May 2, 1997, or b) allow SWBT to file supplemental rebuttal testimony after it has received responses to the DRs in issue.
- 5. As set out above, based upon information contained in the Small TCG's direct testimony the Staff finds itself in the same position as SWBT. That is the Staff lacks sufficient time to receive responses to follow-up DRs and incorporate those responses into its rebuttal testimony. Accordingly, if the Commission determines that it is appropriate to shorten the time allowed to respond to SWBT's follow-up DRs, the Staff requests that the time allowed to respond to its follow-up DRs be similarly shortened. However, with testimony due a week from today, the Staff is concerned that it will not be possible to expedite DR responses sufficiently to allow either the Staff or SWBT to receive the requested information and incorporate it into their rebuttal testimony.

6. Although the Staff does not believe it is the best method to address the numerical anomalies in Small TCG's direct testimony, if the Commission determines that SWBT should be allowed to file supplemental rebuttal on May 12, 1997, the Staff also requests permission to file supplemental rebuttal relating to its outstanding DRs on that date.

7. Since the hearing is currently scheduled for May 12, 1997, the same day SWBT proposes to file its supplemental rebuttal testimony, the Staff believes it would be difficult for the parties to adequately prepare for any new issues raised by that testimony. Further, based upon the Staff's concerns relating to the content of Small TCG's direct testimony, the Staff believes new and relevant issues may surface based upon the DR responses in issue. Accordingly, the Staff is filing concurrent with this Response a Motion to Delay Procedural Schedule.

WHEREFORE, while the Staff does not believe it will adequately address the problems in issue, the Staff respectfully requests that in the event the Commission either shortens the time allowed for responding to DRs or allows SWBT to file supplemental rebuttal relating to its outstanding DRs that the Staff be given comparable treatment or authority.

Respectfully submitted,

Cherlyn D. McGowan Assistant General Counsel

Missouri Bar No. 42044

Attorney for the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission P. O. Box 360

Jefferson City, MO 65102

573-751-3966 573-751-9285 (Fax)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed or hand-delivered to all counsel of record as shown on the attached service list this 25th day of April, 1997.

Service List Case No. TW-97-333 Revised: April 25, 1997

Craig S. Johnson 301 East McCarty P. O. Box 1438 Jefferson City, MO 65102

James C. Stroo GTE Telephone Operations 1000 GTE Drive, P. O. Box 307 Wentzville, MO 63385

Linda K. Gardner United Telephone Company 5454 W. 110th Street, 10th Floor Overland Park, KS 66211

Carl J. Lumley Leland B. Curtis 130 S. Berniston, Ste. 200 Clayton, MO 63105

Julie Grimaldi Julie Thomas Bowles Sprint Communications Company 8140 Ward Parkway, 5E Kansas City, MO 64114

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W. R. England Sondra B. Morgan 312 East Capitol Avenue Jefferson City, MO 65102

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