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July 18, 2003

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**Missouri Public
Service Commission**

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0360

Re: Case No. TC02003-0547; *Birch Telecom of Missouri, Inc., AT&T Communications of the Southwest, Inc., TCG Kansas City, Inc., and TCG St. Louis, Inc. v. Southwestern Bell Telephone, L.P. d/b/a SBC Missouri*

Dear Mr. Roberts:

This letter is filed on behalf of AT&T Communications of the Southwest, Inc., TCG Kansas City, Inc. and TCG St. Louis, Inc. (collectively "Complainants") as a follow-up to our letter dated July 14, 2003, and in response to the Order Directing Filing, dated July 1, 2003.

As stated in the Complainants' July 14, 2003 letter, at the time of filing that letter, we were awaiting Southwestern Bell Telephone, L.P. d/b/a SBC Missouri's ("SBC") response to Complainants' proposal to participate in the voluntary mediation already scheduled for July 22, 2003 between NuVox, XO, and SBC, which involved the same disputes. NuVox and XO had agreed to Complainants' participation. Further as stated in the letter, if SBC agreed to Complainants' participation in that mediation, they would agree to voluntary mediation. However, if SBC determined that Complainants could not participate in a joint mediation for July 22, then Complainants would not agree to the voluntary mediation.

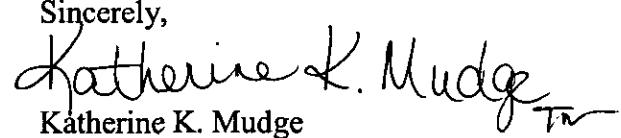
SBC notified Complainants yesterday afternoon that SBC would not agree to Complainants' participation in the July 22, 2003 mediation.

Given that decision, Complainants respectfully decline the opportunity to mediate this dispute offered by the Missouri Public Service Commission. Therefore, we ask that SBC be notified immediately that the tolling of its obligation to file a response to the Complaint filed in this proceeding is lifted and of the date by which it has to file a response. To further the efficient processing of this Complaint, Complainants request that SBC be required to file its response within 30 days of the filing of this notice, or August 18, 2003.

While Complainants appreciate the usefulness of mediation in some circumstances, since Complainants have already conducted informal settlement negotiations before the Public Utility Commission of Texas, without success, we submit that the more efficient course in this case is to establish a procedural schedule for the expeditious resolution of this dispute.

The undersigned counsel is signing this letter in the absence of Complainants' local counsel.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

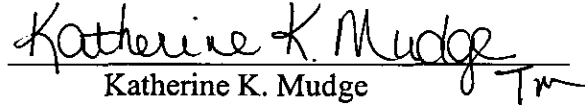
Sincerely,

Katherine K. Mudge

cc: All Parties of Record

Smith, Majcher, & Mudge, L.L.P.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that copies of a letter on behalf of AT&T Communications of the Southwest, Inc., TCG Kansas City, and TCG St. Louis in response to the Commission's Order Directing filing by email on July 18, 2003.


Katherine K. Mudge

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