

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of the Application for)
Approval of an Amendment to an)
Interconnection Agreement By and)
Between Southwestern Bell Telephone,)
L.P., d/b/a AT&T Missouri and Birch)
Telecom of Missouri, Inc., and Ionex)
Communications, Inc.)

Case No. TK-2007-0019

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) and for its recommendation to approve the amendment not previously approved respectfully states:

1. In the attached Memorandum, labeled Appendix A, Staff recommends that the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) grant approval of the *Amendment to Interconnection Agreement with Respect to Superseding Certain Intercarrier Compensation Provisions* (Amendment) filed by Southwestern Bell Telephone, L.P. d/b/a AT&T Missouri (AT&T Missouri) under the provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The Amendment modifies the arbitrated interconnection agreement in place between AT&T Missouri and Birch Telecom of Missouri, Inc., and Ionex Communications, Inc adopted in Case No. TK-2006-0048.

2. Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §252(e), the Commission is to approve a negotiated interconnection agreement or a portion thereof unless the terms of the agreement discriminate against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement, or implementation of the agreement or any portion thereof is inconsistent with the public interest, convenience, or necessity. In its Memorandum, Staff states that the terms of the Amendment do not discriminate against telecommunications carriers not parties to the

agreement and that the Amendment is not against the public interest, convenience or necessity.

3. Staff has a serially numbered copy of the Amendment. Staff recommends the Commission to direct the parties to submit any amendments or modifications to the Commission.

WHEREFORE, because the terms of the Amendment satisfy the standard set forth in 47 U.S.C. § 252(e), Staff recommends the Commission approve the Amendment. Staff further recommends that the Commission direct the parties to submit any amendments or modifications of the Agreement to the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jennifer Heintz_____

Jennifer Heintz

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Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile or electronically mailed to all counsel of record this 10th day of August 2006.

/s/ Jennifer Heintz_____