STATE OF MISSOURI

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

TRANSCRIPT

PREHEARING CONFERENCE

CASE NO. : TA-88-218, et al.

In the matter of the application of AMERICAN OPERATOR SERVICES, INC., for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to provide intrastate operated-assisted resold telecommunication services.

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At a Prehearing Conference of the Public Service Commission, held at Jefferson City, Missouri, on the 14th day of September, . . . 1988.

CASE NO. TA-88-218, et al.

In the matter of the application of **AMERICAN OPERATOR SERVICES, INC.**, for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to provide intrastate operated-assisted resold telecommunication services.

BEFORE:

BETH O'DONNELL, Presiding,
HEARING EXAMINER.

REPORTED BY:

DEBBIE J. TWEEDY, RPR

APPEARANCES:

MARK P. JOHNSON, Attorney at Law
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FOR: AMERICAN OPERATOR SERVICES, INC.

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FOR: INTERNATIONAL TELECHARGE, INC.
TELECONNECT COMPANY.

PAUL A. BOUDREAU, Attorney at Law
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FOR: CITIZENS TELEPHONE COMPANY.
CONTEL OF MISSOURI, INC.
CONTEL SYSTEM OF MISSOURI, INC.
EASTERN MISSOURI TELEPHONE COMPANY.
FIDELITY TELEPHONE COMPANY.
MID-MISSOURI TELEPHONE COMPANY.
MISSOURI TELEPHONE COMPANY.
NORTHEAST MISSOURI RURAL TELEPHONE COMPANY.
WEBSTER COUNTY TELEPHONE COMPANY.

THOMAS J. HORN, Attorney at Law
100 North Tucker Boulevard, Room 630
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FOR: SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY.

J. RICHARD SMITH, Vice President & General Counsel
DAVID K. KNOWLES, General Attorney
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FOR: UNITED TELEPHONE COMPANY OF MISSOURI.

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FOR: MIDWEST INDEPENDENT COIN PAYPHONE ASSOCIATION.

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FOR: AT&T COMMUNICATIONS OF THE SOUTHWEST, INC.

VERNON C. MAULSON, Associate General Counsel
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FOR: GTE NORTH INCORPORATED.

EDWARD J. CADIEUX, Regulatory Attorney
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FOR: MCI TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION.

JONI K. OTT, First Assistant Public Counsel
MARK D. WHEATLEY, Assistant Public Counsel
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FOR: OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL and THE PUBLIC.

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FOR: STAFF OF THE MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

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PROCEEDINGS

(Written Entries of Appearance were filed.)

EXAMINER O'DONNELL: This prehearing conference is called to order.

The Commission has set this prehearing conference at this time in the case of TA-88-218, et al., which is concerning alternative operator services.

At this time lets go ahead and entertain oral entries of appearance beginning with the applicants.

MR. JOHNSON: Mark P. Johnson on behalf of American Operator Services, Incorporated.

MR. BROWNLEE: Richard Brownlee, the law firm of Hendren and Andrae, 235 East High Street, Jefferson City, Misouri, on behalf of applicants ITI, Inc., and Teleconnect.

EXAMINER O'DONNELL: I guess that--if you want to go ahead with Staff's attorney next and Public Counsel and then the intervenors.

MR. STEWART: Charles Brent Stewart, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri, 65102, appearing for the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission.

MS. OTT: Let the record reflect the appearance of Joni K. Ott. My mailing address is P.O. Box 7800, Jefferson City, Missouri, 65102; and I'm appearing on behalf of the Office of the Public Counsel.

MR. BOUDREAU: Paul A. Boudreau with the firm of Hawkins, Brydon, Swearengen & England. Mailing address is P.O. Box 456, Jefferson City, Missouri, appearing on behalf of Continental--or Contel of Missouri, Inc.; Contel System of Missouri, Inc.; Webster County Telephone Company; Missouri Telephone Company; Eastern Missouri Telephone Company; Citizens Telephone Company of Higginsville, Missouri; Mid-Missouri Telephone Company; Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone Company; and Fidelity Telephone Company.

MR. HORN: Thomas J. Horn, 100 North Tucker, Room 630, St. Louis, Missouri, 63101, on behalf of Southwestern Bell Telephone Company.

MR. KNOWLES: David K. Knowles, 5454 West 110th Street, Overland Park, Kansas, 66211, appearing on behalf of United Telephone Company of Missouri.

MR. NEWMARK: Philip R. Newmark, 7777 Bonhomme, Suite 1910, Clayton, Missouri, 63105, appearing on behalf of Midwest Independent Coin Payphone Association.

MR. ROYER: Mark Royer, 1100 Walnut, Room 2432, Kansas City, Missouri, 64106, appearing on behalf of AT&T Communications of the Southwest, Inc.

MR. MAULSON: Vernon Maulson, 1312 East Empire Street, Bloomington, Illinois, appearing on behalf of GTE North Incorporated.

MR. CADIEUX: Edward J. Cadieux, 100 South Fourth Street, Suite 1200, St. Louis, Missouri, 63102, appearing on behalf of MCI Telecommunications Corporation.

EXAMINER O'DONNELL: Public Counsel, did you have another entry of appearance you wanted to make?

MR. WHEATLEY: Yes. Mark D. Wheatley, Post Office Box 7800, Jefferson city, Missouri 65102, appearing for the Office of the Public Counsel and the Public.

EXAMINER O'DONNELL: Has everyone then who needs to made an oral entry of appearance?

MR. JOHNSON: I think I neglected to give you my mailing address. Mark P. Johnson, Spencer, Fane, Britt & Browne, 1000 Walnut, Suite 1400, Kansas City, Missouri, 64106.

EXAMINER O'DONNELL: At this time I'd like to address the application to intervene by Operator Assistance Network, the attorney of which doesn't appear to be here.

Public Counsel, did you have something you wanted to say?

MS. OTT: Well, we would object to their intervention at this late date primarily because they're exactly--well, they're coming in on the side of the operator services companies. We have a lot of questions about their practices. I think one of our witnesses even referred to

that in her direct testimony.

It's my understanding that what OAN does is they go around to local exchange companies and try to negotiate billing and collection contracts for AOS providers for a fee. It's our feeling that this is yet another middleman in the process which causes the cost of AOS services to go up to our clients, the end users.

But obviously we have no way of proving this up if we can't conduct discovery of these people. So we would just prefer--we think it's not really fair to let them in at this late date so they can cross-examine our witnesses and yet we know nothing about what they do or how they operate.

EXAMINER O'DONNELL: Is there anyone else who wants to address this late-filed intervention?

(No response.)

EXAMINER O'DONNELL: The Commission would like to allow this late-filed intervention with the proviso that they understand that they have to take the calendar as it is, which would limit their contribution to the hearing.

At the same time, since they're not here at the prehearing conference, you know, there begins to be a question of the rules, whether or not that they would be retained as a party. So I would say that at this point, though, that their intervention is granted.

I'd like to also address the motion to strike. Public Counsel has moved that the testimony of Dennis Thomas, which is sponsored by ITI, be stricken in its entirety as being direct testimony under the guise of rebuttal testimony.

I believe that ITI has responded to this motion and so I don't know of anyone else that really has grounds to respond to it, so at this time I will address that motion; and the motion is denied.

Are there any other matters we need to take up before you begin?

Mr. Cadieux.

MR. CADIEUX: Your Honor, just as a matter of clarification. I understand that when these cases were consolidated, that the filings of Dial U.S. and Dial U.S.A. were also--were included in this consolidated case. They had separate case numbers and were included. I realize that there hasn't been prepared testimony filed, and I did not hear representation this morning. I guess my question is: Are those tariff filings still part of this case or has it somehow separated?

EXAMINER O'DONNELL: No, they have not been separated.

Are there any other questions?

(No response.)

EXAMINER O'DONNELL: Okay. Then you are released to continue your prehearing conference. Thank you for your time. This open recorded portion of the prehearing conference is closed.

WHEREUPON, the recorded portion of the prehearing conference was concluded; and this case was continued to 10 a.m., Tuesday, September 20, 1988.
