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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of)
Southwestern Bell Telephone Company for) **Case No. TO-98-156**
Approval of Interconnection Agreement Under)
the Telecommunications Act of 1996.)

ORDER GRANTING PARTICIPATION WITHOUT INTERVENTION

Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBT) filed an application with the Public Service Commission (Commission) on October 10, 1997, for approval of an agreement for Interconnection and Reciprocal Compensation (the Agreement) between SWBT and ALLTEL Mobile Communications, Inc. (ALLTEL) under the provisions of the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act). The Commission issued an order which established a procedural schedule and directed interested parties to file applications to participate no later than November 10. The Commission ordered that only participation, and not intervention, would be permitted in this case.

The following parties filed timely applications for participation:

The Mid-Missouri Group of Local Exchange Telephone Companies (Alma Telephone Company, Chariton Valley Telephone Corporation, Choctaw Telephone Company, Mid-Missouri Telephone Company, MoKan Dial Inc., Modern Telecommunications Company, Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone Company, and Peace Valley Telephone Company) (Mid-Missouri Group);

The Small Telephone Company Group (BPS Telephone Company, Cass County Telephone Company, Citizens Telephone Company of Higginsville, Missouri, Inc., Craw-Kan Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Ellington Telephone Company, Grand River Mutual Telephone Cooperation, Green Hills Telephone Corporation, Holway Telephone Company, Iamo Telephone Company, Kingdom Telephone Company, KLM Telephone Company, Lathrop Telephone Company, Mark Twain Rural Telephone Company, McDonald County Telephone Company, Miller Telephone Company, New Florence Telephone Company, New London Telephone Company, Orchard Farm Telephone Company, Oregon Farmers

Mutual Telephone Company, Steelville Telephone Exchange, Inc., Stoutland Telephone Company) (Small Telephone Company Group); and

Fidelity Telephone Company and Bourbeuse Telephone Company (collectively Fidelity).

The Mid-Missouri Group asked for participation without intervention but did not designate a specific reason for the request. The Small Telephone Company Group and Fidelity stated that they are requesting participation without intervention because of concerns that the interconnection agreement may have an impact on their operations or their existing relationships with SWBT. More specifically, applicants state that they are concerned about the effect the proposed interconnection agreement with a wireless carrier may have upon agreements between wireless carriers and other local exchange companies in light of the Commission's ruling in Case No. TC-96-112, and in light of SWBT's tariff filing designed to revise its wireless carrier interconnection service tariff in Case No. TT-97-524. Applicants thus contend that they have an interest in this proceeding which is different from that of the general public, and that their participation in this docket will serve the public interest.

The Commission has reviewed the application for participation filed by the Mid-Missouri Group, and finds that it does not comply with 4 CSR 240-2.075(5). Nevertheless, the Commission is aware that the Mid-Missouri Group has been active in Case No. TT-97-524, and can infer that its interests are similar to those noted by the Small Telephone Company Group. The Commission has also reviewed the application for participation filed by the Small Telephone Company Group and Fidelity, and finds that it is in substantial compliance with Commission rules regarding participation without intervention. The Commission finds that all of the applicants have an interest in this matter which is different from that of the general

public. The Commission thus concludes that the requests for participation should be granted.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the following parties are granted participation without intervention in this case in accordance with 4 CSR 240-2.075(5):

The Mid-Missouri Group of Local Exchange Telephone Companies (Alma Telephone Company, Chariton Valley Telephone Corporation, Choctaw Telephone Company, Mid-Missouri Telephone Company, MoKan Dial Inc., Modern Telecommunications Company, Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone Company, and Peace Valley Telephone Company);

The Small Telephone Company Group (BPS Telephone Company, Cass County Telephone Company, Citizens Telephone Company of Higginsville, Missouri, Inc., Craw-Kan Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Ellington Telephone Company, Grand River Mutual Telephone Cooperation, Green Hills Telephone Corporation, Holway Telephone Company, Iamo Telephone Company, Kingdom Telephone Company, KLM Telephone Company, Lathrop Telephone Company, Mark Twain Rural Telephone Company, McDonald County Telephone Company, Miller Telephone Company, New Florence Telephone Company, New London Telephone Company, Orchard Farm Telephone Company, Oregon Farmers Mutual Telephone Company, Steelville Telephone Exchange, Inc., Stoutland Telephone Company); and

Fidelity Telephone Company and Bourbeuse Telephone Company.

2. That the caption of this case shall be changed to: "In the Matter of the Application of Southwestern Bell Telephone Company for Approval of Interconnection Agreement with ALLTEL Mobile Communications, Inc. under the Telecommunications Act of 1996."

3. That this order shall become effective on November 18, 1997.

BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale Hardy Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and "R".

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Elaine E. Bensavage, Regulatory Law Judge,
by delegation of authority pursuant to
4 CSR 240-2.120(1) (November 30, 1995)
and Section 386.240, RSMo 1994.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 18th day of November, 1997.