

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

In the Matter of the Application of Southwestern	)	
Bell Telephone Company, d/b/a AT&T Missouri,	)	<b><u>File No. TK-2018-0025</u></b>
For Approval of an Amendment to an Interconnection	)	
Agreement under the Telecommunications Act of 1996	)	

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**COMES NOW** the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission and submits its Recommendation as follows:

1. On July 25, 2017, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, d/b/a AT&T Missouri ("AT&T") filed with the Missouri Public Service Commission its Application for Approval of an Amendment to an Interconnection Agreement executed between it and Matrix Telecom, LLC d/b/a Excel Telecommunications d/b/a Matrix Business Technologies d/b/a VarTec Telecom. ("VarTec").

2. 47 USC 252(e)(2) provides that a state commission may only reject an interconnection agreement adopted by negotiation if the agreement discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to it or its implementation is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.

3. In lieu of a Memorandum, Staff hereby states that the Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement does not discriminate against telecommunications carriers not parties to it, nor is its implementation inconsistent with the public interest, convenience or necessity. A copy of the Amendment was filed with the Application. AT&T is certificated with the Commission as an incumbent local exchange and interexchange telecommunications company. VarTec is certificated as a competitive

local exchange telecommunications company and an interexchange telecommunications company.

**WHEREFORE,** Staff recommends the Commission approve the Application and direct the parties to submit to the Commission any modifications or amendments to the Interconnection Agreement.

Respectfully submitted,

**/s/ Whitney Payne**

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### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by electronic mail, or First Class United States Postal Mail, postage prepaid, on this 28th day of August, 2017, to all counsel of record.

**/s/Whitney Payne**