

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

In the Matter of the Petition for Arbitration            )  
of Unresolved Issues in a Section 251(b)(5)        )  
Agreement with ALLTEL Wireless and                )  
Western Wireless.    )  
**Case No. TO-2006-0463**

**ORDER GRANTING JOINT MOTION TO EXTEND**  
**ARBITRATION DEADLINE AND SETTING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

Issue Date: July 13, 2006

Effective Date: July 13, 2006

On June 7, 2006, a number of small rural local exchange carriers<sup>1</sup> filed a verified petition for arbitration with the Missouri Public Service Commission pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act), requesting that the Commission arbitrate unresolved issues between the Petitioners and ALLTEL Wireless and Western Wireless (collectively, ALLTEL) for an interconnection agreement. Petitioners stated that on December 30, 2005, they sent a request for negotiation to ALLTEL which was acknowledged by ALLTEL on that same date. Under the Act, the Commission must issue its arbitration decision no later than September 26, 2006.

On July 7, 2006, following an initial arbitration meeting held on June 21, 2006, the parties jointly filed a list of unresolved issues, proposed procedural schedule, and

---

<sup>1</sup> Cass County Telephone Company, Citizens Telephone Company of Higginsville, Missouri, Craw-Kan Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Goodman Telephone Company, Granby Telephone Company, Green Hills Telephone Corporation, Holway Telephone Company, Iamo Telephone Company, Kingdom Telephone Company, KLM Telephone Company, Lathrop Telephone Company, Le-Ru Telephone Company, Mark Twain Rural Telephone Company, McDonald County Telephone Company, Miller Telephone Company, Oregon Farmers Mutual Telephone Company, Ozark Telephone Company, Peace Valley Telephone Company, Inc., Rock Port Telephone Company, and Seneca Telephone Company.

motion to extend the arbitration deadline. The parties request that the Commission extend the arbitration decision deadline to November 17, 2006. In support of the motion to extend the arbitration deadline, the parties state that such an extension would be consistent with extensions granted by the Commission in other, similar interconnection agreement arbitrations under Section 251(b)(5) of the Act.

The Commission has appointed one of its law judges as Arbitrator in this case as permitted by Commission rule 4 CSR 240-36.040. Although that rule establishes schedules for the completion of various stages of the arbitration, 4 CSR 240-36.040(15) grants the Arbitrator the authority to vary from those schedules so long as the Arbitrator complies with the deadlines contained in the Act.

The parties have agreed to an extension of the deadline beyond that required by the Act. Furthermore, the Arbitrator takes notice that the extension of this deadline is a common practice by other state commissions. Holding the parties to a tight procedural schedule is unnecessary, especially when the parties have jointly requested an extension, and when a longer schedule would be more likely to produce an effective and fair interconnection agreement. The Arbitrator finds that an extension of the September 26, 2006 deadline is appropriate. The Arbitrator finds, further, that the parties' joint proposed procedural schedule is appropriate and shall be adopted.

**IT IS ORDERED THAT:**

1. The joint motion to extend the arbitration deadline is granted. The arbitration deadline of September 26, 2006, is extended to November 17, 2006.

2. The following procedural schedule is adopted for this arbitration:

Simultaneous Direct Testimony	August 11, 2006
Simultaneous Rebuttal Testimony	August 31, 2006
Final Issue List	September 8, 2006
Arbitration Hearing	September 20-21, 2006 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

The arbitration hearing shall be held in the Commission's offices in the Governor Office, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri, in Room 310 The Governor Office Building meets accessibility standards required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Anyone needing additional accommodations to participate in the arbitration hearing should call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 prior to the hearing.

3. This order shall become effective on July 13, 2006.

**BY THE COMMISSION**



Colleen M. Dale  
Secretary

( S E A L )

Nancy Dippell, Deputy Chief Regulatory  
Law Judge, by delegation of authority pursuant  
to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,  
on this 13th day of July, 2006.