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**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of the Joint Application of )  
Southwestern Bell Telephone Company and CMT Partners ) Case No. TO-98-96  
for Approval of Interconnection Agreement under the )  
Telecommunications Act of 1996. )  
)

**ORDER GRANTING PARTICIPATION**

Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBT) and CMT Partners (CMT) filed an application with the Commission on September 2, 1997, for approval of an interconnection agreement between them. The Commission issued an order establishing a procedural schedule and directing interested parties to file applications to participate no later than September 29, 1997. The Commission ordered that only participation, and not intervention, would be permitted in this case.

On October 14, the following parties filed late applications for participation:

**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, Lathrop Telephone Company, Holway Telephone Company, KLM Telephone Company, Iamo Telephone Company, Kingdom Telephone Company, McDonald County Telephone Company, Mark Twain Rural Telephone Company, Miller Telephone Company, New Florence Telephone Company, New London Telephone Company, Orchard Farm Telephone Company, Stoutland Telephone Company, Oregon Farmers Mutual Telephone Company and Steelville Telephone Exchange, Inc.);

**Fidelity Telephone Company and Bourbeuse Telephone Company.**

The Small Telephone Company Group (STCG), Fidelity Telephone Company (Fidelity) and Bourbeuse Telephone Company (Bourbeuse) all stated that they have concerns about how the proposed agreement might affect their operations, their existing relationships with SWBT, and jointly provided services.

STCG, Fidelity and Bourbeuse claimed that they never received notice of SWBT and CMT's filing for interconnection. STCG, Fidelity and Bourbeuse stated they first became aware of this interconnection agreement in a separate letter sent to each of the companies by SWBT on October 7. A review of the Commission's file in this case revealed that notice was not sent to all interexchange and local exchange companies in accordance with the Commission's Order and Notice on September 9. Therefore the Commission finds that STCG has established good cause to be granted late participation without intervention in this proceeding.

The Commission has reviewed the applications and finds that they are in substantial compliance with Commission rules regarding participation without intervention and that the applicants each have an interest in this matter which is different from that of the general public. The Commission concludes that all these requests for participation should be granted. The participants may file comments no later than November 5 on the issues of whether the interconnection agreement is discriminatory to third parties, or is inconsistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity.

**THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:**

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

**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, Lathrop Telephone Company, Holway Telephone Company, KLM Telephone Company, Iamo Telephone Company, Kingdom Telephone Company, McDonald County Telephone Company, Mark Twain Rural Telephone Company, Miller Telephone Company, New Florence Telephone Company, New London Telephone Company, Orchard Farm Telephone Company, Stoutland Telephone Company, Oregon Farmers Mutual Telephone Company and Steelville Telephone Exchange, Inc.);

**Fidelity Telephone Company and Bourbeuse Telephone Company.**

2. That the participants shall file comments no later than November 5, 1997.
3. That this order shall be effective on October 30, 1997.

**BY THE COMMISSION**



**Cecil I. Wright  
Executive Secretary**

(S E A L)

Kevin F. Hennessey, 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 30th day of October, 1997.