



Public Service Commission

-M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M-

DATE: MAY 5, 1998
TO: JULIA L. JOHNSON, CHAIRMAN
FROM: J. TERRY DEASON, COMMISSIONER AND PREHEARING OFFICER
RE: Docket No. 970808-TL - Petition of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. To Remove InterLATA Access Subsidy received by St. Joseph Telephone & Telegraph

Handwritten initials: J.K. W.H. J.J. and J.T.D.

Docket No. 980498-TP - Petition by GTC, Inc. To Terminate the InterLATA Subsidy and Convert to Payment of Access Charge Revenue Directly to GTC, Inc.

Currently, Docket No. 970808-TL is set for hearing on May 20, 1998. This docket addresses matters regarding the request by BellSouth to remove the interLATA access subsidy from St. Joseph Telephone and Telegraph, now known as GTC, Inc. On April 6, 1998, GTC, Inc. filed a separate request to terminate the same interLATA access subsidy and convert those subsidy payments to access charges. Dockets Nos. 970808-TL and 980498-TP deal with the same companies and the same subject matter. Therefore, by memo filed April 29, 1998, these dockets were consolidated for administrative efficiency for consideration at the May 20, 1998, hearing.

At the May 4, 1998, prehearing conference, it was brought to my attention that the notice of hearing and prehearing in Docket No. 970808-TL was issued before the two dockets were consolidated, and, therefore, potential interested persons did not receive sufficient notice that Docket No. 980498-TP was to be addressed on the same hearing schedule. In view of due process requirements, I am convinced that the benefits of consolidating these two dockets are outweighed by the risks presented. I ask, therefore, that Docket No. 980498-TP be separated from consideration with Docket No. 970808-TL at the May 20, 1998, hearing. It appears that due process requires that Docket No. 980498-TP should be taken up separately in due course. I note that, to date, these dockets have not been formally consolidated for hearing.

- ACK
AFA
APP
CAF
CMU
CTR
EAG
LEG
LIN BK/bk
CPC cc:
RCH
SEC I
WAS
JTH Leach dkt

cc: DIVISION OF RECORDS AND REPORTING (BAYO)
Division of Auditing and Financial Analysis (Wright, Hackney)
Division of Communications (Audu)
Division of Legal Services (Keating)

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