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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

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96-159

In the Matter of)
)
Request of Limited Modification of)
LATA Boundaries to Provide ELCS)
Between the Neches)
Exchange and the Tyler)
Exchange.)

PETITION

I. INTRODUCTION

Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBT), pursuant to Section 3(25) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended,¹ and in accordance with the guidelines established in the Commission's Memorandum Opinion and Order (MO&O) released July 15, 1997 in CC Docket No. 96-159,² hereby makes application for a limited modification of LATA boundaries to provide ELCS between the Neches exchange and the Tyler exchange.

II. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

As prescribed in paragraph 23 of the aforementioned Commission MO&O, SWBT provides the following information in support of its application:

1. Type of service: Flat-rate, non-optional Expanded Local Calling (ELC);
2. Direction of service: Two-way;

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¹ The Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. *et al.*

² Memorandum Opinion and Order, Petitions for Limited Modification of LATA Boundaries to Provide Expanded Local Calling Service at Various Locations, CC Docket No. 96-159, released July 15, 1997. By way of this MO&O the Commission adopted a format for and criteria under which such petitions would be granted. The format and criteria are detailed in paragraphs 23 and 24.

3. Exchanges involved: Neches in the Dallas, TX LATA and Tyler in the Longview, TX LATA;
4. Name of carriers: Neches of Sprint/United/Centel Telephone and Tyler of Southwestern Bell Telephone;
5. State commission approval(s): See Attachment A;
6. Number of access lines or customers: The Neches exchange has 539 access lines, and the Tyler exchange has 76,784 access lines;
7. Usage data: Usage data is not available to Southwestern Bell Telephone. SWBT does not currently carry traffic across LATA boundaries;
8. Poll results: Percentage of Neches customers returning ballots who voted in favor of ELC to Tyler: 83.56. Where SWBT is the petitioning exchange, there is no proposed rate increase. Where SWBT is not the petitioning exchange, SWBT does not have information as to any proposed rate increase.
9. Community of interest statement: The Public Utility Commission of Texas includes a Community of Interest Finding in their Order(s). See Attachment A.
10. Map: See Attachment B; and,
11. Other pertinent information: None

III. PRIMA FACIE SHOWING

SWBT believes that it has made a *prima facie* case supporting grant of the proposed modification because the instant ELCS petition (1) has been approved by the state commission; (2) proposes only traditional local service (i.e., flat-rate, non-optional ELCS); (3) indicates that the state commission found a sufficient community of interest to warrant such service; (4) documents this community of interest through such evidence as poll results and descriptions of the communities involved; and, (5) involves a limited number of customers or

access lines. These requirements for a *prima facie* case are detailed in the aforementioned Commission MO&O paragraph 24.

IV. CONCLUSION

Wherefore, SWBT request that the Commission approve its application for a limited modification of LATA boundaries to provide ELCS between the Neches exchange and the Tyler exchange.

Respectfully submitted,

SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY

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AUGUST 29, 1997

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PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
REGULATORY CLEARING HOUSE

PETITION FOR EXPANDED LOCAL §
CALLING SERVICE FROM THE NECHES §
EXCHANGE TO THE EXCHANGE OF §
TYLER §

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF TEXAS

INTERIM ORDER

Findings of Fact

1. On February 19, 1997 subscribers of the Neches Exchange filed a petition for Expanded Local Calling Service (ELCS) requesting non-optional, two-way, flat rate calling to the exchange of Tyler.
2. The processes for petitioning and balloting included notice that the service would be for a flat monthly fee of up to \$3.50 per residential line and \$7.00 per business line on a non-optional basis.
3. The Neches Exchange is in the Dallas Local Access and Transport Area (LATA) and is served by Sprint/United Telephone Company of Texas, Inc. (United). The petitioned exchange of Tyler is in the Longview LATA and is served by Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBT).
4. An affirmative vote of 83.56 percent of Neches Exchange subscribers responding to the ballot favored expanding the local calling scope to include the Tyler Exchange.
5. On July 15, 1997, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued an order, *In the Matter of Petitions for Limited Modification of LATA Boundaries to Provide Expanded Local Calling Service (ELCS) at Various Locations*, CC Docket No. 96-159, FCC 97-244, (rel. July 15, 1997) (*Memorandum Opinion and Order*), providing a procedure for requesting a limited LATA boundary modification.

6. The central office of the petitioned exchange of Tyler is 31.32 miles from the petitioning exchange central office utilizing vertical and horizontal (V&H) geographic coordinates of the central switching offices pursuant to 16 T.A.C. §23.49(c)(3)(B)(i).
7. In addition to satisfying the geographic requirement of the Texas Public Utility Commission rules that the central switching office for a petitioned exchange be within 50 miles of the petitioning exchange, a statement attesting to the existence of a community of interest between the petitioning and petitioned exchange was filed on April 1, 1997.
8. The Tyler Exchange provides specialized health care not available in the Neches Exchange, doctors, and is a business and commercial center for Neches Exchange subscribers.
9. Based on the statement referenced in Finding of Fact No. 7, there is a community of interest between the petitioning Neches Exchange and the petitioned exchange of Tyler.

Ordering Paragraphs

In accordance with the findings of fact, the Commission issues the following Interim Order:

1. This proceeding is unabated.
2. Petitioners from the Neches Exchange have shown a community of interest with the Tyler Exchange.
3. Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Interim Order, SWBT is directed to file a request for a limited modification of the LATA boundary in accordance with the procedures outlined in the FCC order, *In the Matter of Petitions for Limited Modification of LATA Boundaries to Provide Expanded Local Calling Service (ELCS) at Various Locations*, CC Docket No. 96-159, FCC 97-244, (rel. July 15, 1997) (*Memorandum Opinion and Order*), ¶¶ 23 & 24.

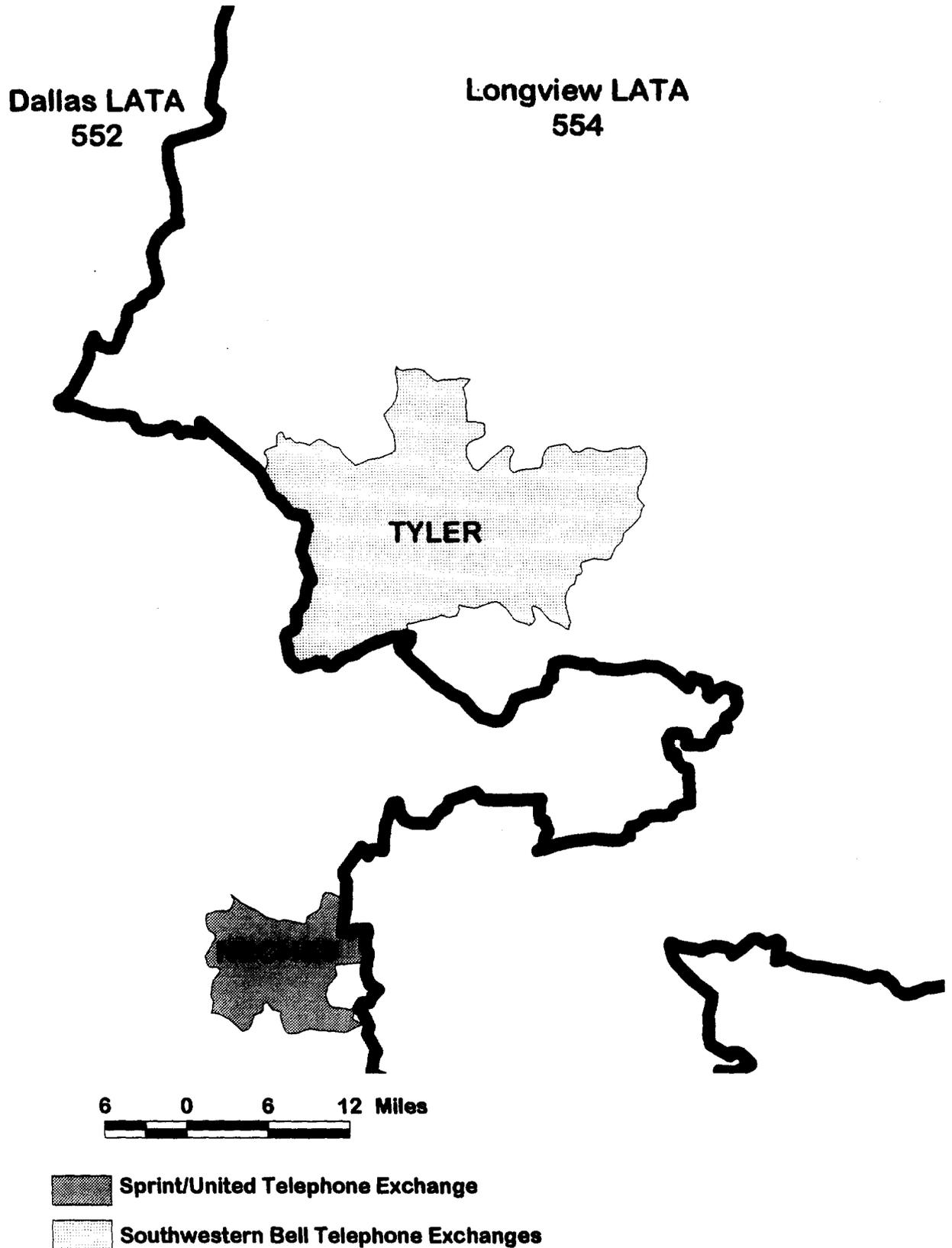
4. Within ten (10) days of the receipt of an Order or Notice from the FCC relating to this petition, SWBT is directed to file such Order or Notice in this project.



**ISSUED BY THE OFFICE OF POLICY DEVELOPMENT
ON BEHALF OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS
ON THE 5th DAY OF AUGUST, 1997**

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Neches To Tyler



This document was produced by the Texas Exchange Carrier Relations organization of Southwestern Bell Telephone Company on 7/1/97, based on the best information it could obtain from other sources at that time. In addition, it is the Telephone Company's understanding that the data underlying the creation of this document may be subject to change. Southwestern Bell makes no representation as to the accuracy of the information provided to it and used to create this document.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Katie M. Turner, hereby certify that the foregoing, "PETITION OF SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY" in Docket No. 96-159 has been filed this 29th day of August, 1997 to the Parties of Record.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katie M. Turner". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Katie M. Turner

August 29, 1997

Texas Public Utility Commission
1701 North Congress
Austin, Texas 78701