Your business
is our business.

7852 Walker Drive, Suite 200
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770
phone: 301-459-7590, fax: 301-577-5575
internet: www.jsitel.com, e-mail: jsi@jsitel.com

**VIA ECFS**

February 1, 2016

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Section 63.71 Application of Southwest Arkansas Telephone Cooperative, Inc. for Authority to Discontinue Certain Services

JSI respectfully files the enclosed Application of Southwest Arkansas Telephone Cooperative, Inc. for Authority to Discontinue Certain Services. This filing is made in compliance with Section 63.71 of the Commission's rules (47 C.F.R. § 63.71).

Sincerely,

Valerie Wimer

Valerie Wimer
Vice President

on behalf of

Bill Hegmann
General Manager
Southwest Arkansas Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Enclosures

cc: Bill Hegmann, General Manager
Southwest Arkansas Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

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

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| In the Matter of | ) | |
| | ) | |
| Section 63.71 Application of | ) | Comp. Pol. File No. _____ |
| Southwest Arkansas Telephone | ) | |
| Cooperative, Inc. For Authority | ) | |
| to Discontinue Certain Services | ) | |

## SECTION 63.71 APPLICATION

Pursuant to Sections 63.71 of the Commission's Rules[1] and Section 214(a) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended,[2] Southwest Arkansas Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("SWAT" or the "Cooperative") hereby files this application to discontinue the provision of select operator services to customers that the Cooperative serves in the State of Arkansas ("Application").[3] In support of this Application, SWAT submits the following:

### I. Information Required by Section 63.71(a)(1) - (4)

#### A. Name and Address of Carrier

Southwest Arkansas Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
2601 East Street
Texarkana, AR 71854

For purposes of this Application, the Commission may contact:

Bill Hegmann
General Manager
Southwest Arkansas Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
2601 East Street
Texarkana, AR 71854
(870) 653-8222
bill@swat.coop

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1 *See* 47 C.F.R. § 63.71.

2 *See* 47 U.S.C. § 214(a).

3 As required by Section 63.71(a) of the Commission's Rules, SWAT has notified and submitted a copy of this Application concurrent with this filing to the Arkansas Public Service Commission, the Governor of Arkansas, and the Secretary of the Department of Defense.

### B. Date of Planned Service Discontinuance

SWAT will discontinue operator-assisted Busy Line Verification and Busy Interrupt services to its customers in the state of Arkansas on or after May 2, 2016, upon completion of all necessary federal and state regulatory approvals.

### C. Points of Geographic Areas of Service Affected

Affected SWAT local exchange customers are in the Cooperative's service area in the exchanges of Doddridge, Emerson, Fouke, Fulton, Garland, Trigg and Washington which includes portions of Columbia, Hempstead, Miller and Howard counties.

### D. Brief Description of the Types of Service Affected

In the areas referenced above, SWAT provides the following services which will be discontinued (collectively, "Affected Services"):

- Busy Line Verification – An operator service allowing the operator to confirm when a line is idle or in use.

- Busy Interrupt – An operator service allowing the operator to break into a conversation when a line is in use.

This discontinuance is limited to the Affected Services. Customers will continue to have access to all other current services without interruption.

## II. Brief Description of the Dates and Methods of Notice to All Affected Customers

Notices were sent to all SWAT local exchange customers as a bill insert by method of U.S. Mail on February 1, 2016. Please reference Exhibit A which is a sample copy of the Notice sent to the affected customers. SWAT deemed the bill insert the most economic method of reaching its rural customers and it will be tri-folded and inserted separately to distinguish it in the bill statement.

## III. Status of Carrier

SWAT is an incumbent local exchange carrier and considered a dominant carrier with respect to the services that it proposes to discontinue in the state of Arkansas.

## IV. Circumstances of Discontinuance

The Cooperative's discontinuance of the Affected Services was a business decision based on a lack of customer demand for the service. In the preceding 12 months, the Cooperative has had no instances of usage for the Affected Services. Therefore, the discontinuance of these services will not adversely affect the Cooperative's customers.

## V. Certification

On behalf of Southwest Arkansas Telephone Cooperative, Inc., I, the undersigned General Manager, Bill Hegmann, hereby certify that the statements contained herein are true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and made in good faith.

## VI. Conclusion

For the reasons stated herein, the Cooperative respectfully requests grant of this Application.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Hegmann
General Manager
Southwest Arkansas Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
2601 East Street
Texarkana, AR 71854
(870) 653-8222
bill@swat.coop

January 29, 2016
Date

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing Section 63.71 Application was served this 1st day of February, 2016, by mailing true and correct copies thereof, postage prepaid, to the following persons at the addresses listed below.

Arkansas Public Service Commission
1000 Center St.
Little Rock, AR 72201

Office of Governor Asa Hutchinson
State of Arkansas
State Capitol Room 250
500 Woodlane St.
Little Rock, AR 72201

Secretary of Defense
Attn: Special Assistant for Telecommunications,
Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Marty Kluh

Marty Kluh

# EXHIBIT A

# CUSTOMER NOTICE

February 1, 2016

RE: FCC-Required Notice of Discontinuance of Certain Operator Services

Dear Valued Customer:

This letter is to inform you that on or after May 2, 2016, Southwest Arkansas Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("SWAT") will no longer be providing certain operator services within the state of Arkansas. Customers who attempt to utilize the discontinued services will be informed by the operator that the service is not available. Specifically, the following operator services will be discontinued.

- Busy Line Verification – An operator service allowing the operator to confirm when a line is idle or in use.
- Busy Interrupt – An operator service allowing the operator to break into a conversation when a line is in use.

This discontinuance is limited to the above operator services and will not affect your SWAT service in any other way. Customers will continue to access general operator services, including operator assisted dialing, handling sent-paid calls, handling emergency calls and providing rate quotes where available.

The FCC will normally authorize this proposed discontinuance of service unless it is shown that customers would be unable to receive service or a reasonable substitute from another carrier or that the public convenience and necessity is otherwise adversely affected. If you wish to object, you should file your comments as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days after the Commission releases public notice of the proposed discontinuance. You may file your comments electronically through the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System using the docket number established in the Commission's public notice for this proceeding, or you may address them to the Federal Communications Commission, Wireline Competition Bureau, Competition Policy Division, Washington, DC 20554, and include in your comments a reference to the §63.71 Application of Southwest Arkansas Telephone Cooperative, Inc. Comments should include specific information about the impact of this proposed discontinuance upon you or your company, including any inability to acquire reasonable substitute service.

If you have any questions about this notice or SWAT's discontinuance of the aforementioned operator services, please contact us at 2601 East Street, Texarkana, AR 71854 or by phone at (870) 653-8222.

We thank you for your business and look forward to continuing to serve your communications needs.

Sincerely,

Southwest Arkansas Telephone Cooperative, Inc.