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January 31, 2000

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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VIA HAND DELIVERY

Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W. TW B-204
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: *Application of SBC Communications, Inc.: Comments of e.spire
Communications, Inc., CC Docket No. 00-4*

Dear Secretary Salas,

e.spire Communications, Inc. is filing two versions of its Comments in the above referenced docket. docket. The Coalition is submitting an original and two copies of a Redacted – for Public Inspection version of its filing as well as one copy of the portion of its Comments that contain confidential information. The confidential information is marked Confidential – Not for Public Inspection information copy and should be treated accordingly. Please date stamp the extra copies of each submission and return it to the courier.

If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned at (202) 955-9600.

Sincerely,



Ross A. Buntrock

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

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FEB 01 2000

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of

Application by SBC Communications Inc.,)
Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, and)
Southwestern Bell Communications Services,)
Inc. d/b/a Southwestern Bell Long Distance)
for Provision of In-Region, InterLATA)
Services in Texas)

CC Docket No. 00-4

COMMENTS OF E.SPIRE COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

e.spire Communications, Inc. ("e.spire"), by its attorneys, hereby submits these comments in opposition to the above-captioned application of SBC Communications, Inc. d/b/a Southwestern Bell and its named subsidiaries and affiliated entities (collectively, "Southwestern Bell" or "SWBT")¹ for authority to provide in-region, interLATA services in the State of Texas.² Southwestern Bell has failed to demonstrate, as required by Section 271 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the "1996 Act"), that competitive conditions in the local telecommunications market in Texas support grant of its application for in-region, interLATA authority or that any fledgling competition there could survive if the Section 271 in-region, interLATA entry restriction on Southwestern Bell is lifted. Specifically, SWBT has failed to comply with at a minimum, item One of the Competitive Checklist (interconnection), and item

¹ Brief in Support of Application by Southwestern Bell for Provision of In-Region, InterLATA Services in Texas, CC Docket No. 00-4, filed Jan.10, 2000 ("SWBT Brief"); see *Public Notice*, DA 00-37 (rel. Jan 10, 2000).

² e.spire is an active member of the Association for Local Telecommunications Services ("ALTS") and the Competitive Telecommunications Association ("CompTel"). These
(continued...)

Three (reciprocal compensation). Accordingly, for the reasons discussed more fully below, e.spire urges the Commission to deny this application. If the Commission nevertheless should decide to grant Southwestern Bell in-region, interLATA authority, we further respectfully submit that such grant be made only if subject to the conditions delineated herein.

I. INTRODUCTION

e.spire is a leading facilities-based ICP, serving small and medium-sized businesses. The Company is one of the first Competitive Local Exchange Carriers ("CLECs") to combine the provision of voice services, such as dedicated access, local, and long distance, with advanced data services, such as frame relay, asynchronous transfer mode ("ATM"), and Internet services. e.spire is beginning to roll out digital subscriber line ("DSL") services throughout its service territory. The Company currently offers voice services in 38 U.S. markets where it has state-of-the-art local fiber optic networks and offers data services in 48 U.S. markets where it provides access to 387 data points-of-presence ("POPs"). Through its subsidiary, ACSI Network Technologies, Inc., e.spire also offers network design and construction services to CLECs, interexchange carriers ("IXCs"), corporations, and municipalities in selected markets in the U.S. e.spire currently provides Texas consumers, over its own facilities, with integrated CLEC and interexchange ("IXC") telecommunications services, including operational Lucent 5ESS switches in Dallas, San Antonio, El Paso, Austin, and Fort Worth. To date, e.spire has invested millions of dollars in equipment, services and human resources to achieve the execution of these

(...continued)

comments are intended to supplement the associations' extensive filings also being made
(continued...)

strategies. However, facilities-based competitive entry is being stymied by Southwestern Bell's willful refusal to provide competitors with interconnection on a just, reasonable and nondiscriminatory basis as required by Section 271 and 251 of the 1996 Act. In addition, SWBT has not demonstrated that it complies with Checklist item 13, which requires Southwestern Bell to provide just and reasonable reciprocal compensation. In these comments, e.spire demonstrates how SWBT has failed to honor the terms of its interconnection agreement with e.spire by withholding the appropriate amount of reciprocal compensation due to e.spire, and demonstrating an inability to maintain accurate traffic reports. In addition, SWBT's special access tariff imposes excessive, anticompetitive, termination penalties on CLECs who were forced to purchase special access circuits from Southwestern Bell as a result of SWBT's refusal to provide the enhanced extended link ("EEL"). SWBT's term agreements constitute a fundamental and substantial roadblock to widespread competition in the local exchange market, and the Commission should implement a "fresh look" policy for facilities-based carriers forced to purchase special access circuits from SWBT.

II. SWBT IMPOSES ILLEGAL AND UNREASONABLE RESTRICTIONS ON E.SPIRE'S ABILITY TO OBTAIN INTERCONNECTION TRUNKS

Under the Act, a BOC must provide interconnection that is "at least equal in quality to that provided by the local exchange carrier to itself."³ Under this standard, SWBT

(...continued)
in this docket with company-specific issues.

³ See, e.g., *Application by Bell Atlantic New York for Authorization Under Section 271 of the communications Act To Provide In-Region InterLATA Service in the State of New York* (continued...)

must provide the same technical criteria and standards employed for its own interoffice trunks, including such criteria as the installation time for providing trunks, trunk blockage statistics, and trouble reports for interconnection trunks.⁴ SWBT contends that the forecasting and servicing requirements it imposes upon CLECs “are based upon the same industry-standard objectives that SWBT uses for its own trunk groups, *or even stricter standards*,” and that SWBT uses standard trunk traffic engineering methods to ensure that interconnection trunking is managed in the same manner as trunking for SWBT’s own local services.⁵

Despite its contention that it satisfies the legal standard, it is clear, based on the record and e.spire’s own experience, that Southwestern Bell has failed to meet this requirement as a result of the arbitrary and unreasonable restrictions it imposes upon e.spire’s ability to obtain interconnection trunks, notwithstanding the critical nature of these trunks to the emergence of effective local competition. SWBT’s conduct directly hinders e.spire’s ability to provide competitive local exchange service. Accordingly, as demonstrated in this section and the attached Affidavit of George Wong (“Wong Affidavit), Southwestern Bell has failed to meet one of its primary legal obligations under the Section 271 checklist, primarily as a result of the failure of SWBT’s trunk provisioning and planning processes.

e.spire has complied with Southwestern Bell’s trunk forecasting requirements by providing to SWBT detailed forecast information. In its application, SWBT states that it

(...continued)

York, CC Docket 99-295, *Memorandum Opinion and Order*, ¶ 63 (rel. Dec. 22, 1999) (“*Bell Atlantic-New York*”).

⁴ *Id.*, ¶¶ 64-66.

⁵ SWBT Brief, 78-79 (emphasis added.)

“compares the results of its forecast to the CLEC forecast” and if “serious discrepancies are discovered” contacts the CLEC to “review the results and discuss the forecast....The decision of how many trunks to forecast and where, is always up to the CLEC.”⁶ However, as the Wong Affidavit indicates, SWBT’s forecasting and planning process is inflexible and fraught with arbitrary restrictions on both the ability of e.spire to revise its forecasts, and the ability to order the trunk capacity they require. Southwestern Bell’s inability to meet e.spire’s interconnection trunk capacity needs is of grave concern to e.spire. SWBT’s lack of responsiveness and inflexibility in augmenting e.spire’s trunk orders will, no doubt, result in e.spire experiencing substantial delays in turning up new customers. Critically, SWBT does not proactively manage its interconnection trunking to support traffic coming off its network onto e.spire’s network. Instead, it routinely second-guesses e.spire’s stated need for trunking, causing unwarranted delays once it finally decides to address the problem. It also routinely refuses to provide the necessary reports to e.spire that would permit e.spire to manage the traffic flows that SWBT should be managing in the first instance.

SWBT’s discriminatory trunk provisioning practices warrant a conclusion by the Commission that this application does not merit Section 271 approval with respect to Point 1 of the 14-Point checklist relating to interconnection trunking. Before granting SWBT any interLATA relief, the Commission must ensure that SWBT’s trunk provisioning processes provide competitors with equal in quality interconnection on just, reasonable and non-discriminatory terms. Furthermore, the Commission should also monitor Southwestern Bell’s

⁶ Deere Affidavit, ¶ 47.

performance on future e.spire orders prior to approving Southwestern Bell's application with respect to this checklist item.

III. SWBT DOES NOT PROVIDE RECIPROCAL COMPENSATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACT

Section 271(c)(2)(B)(xiii) of the Act requires that a section 271 applicant's access and interconnection include "[r]eciprocal compensation arrangements in accordance with the requirements of section 252(d)(2)." This checklist item is important to ensuring that all carriers that originate calls bear the cost of terminating such calls. If the BOC provides for reciprocal compensation arrangements in its interconnection agreement, it must demonstrate compliance with the interconnection agreement by making *all required payments* in a timely fashion. SWBT contends that it provides just and reasonable compensation to CLECs and that it therefore satisfies the 271 checklist with respect to this item.⁷ However, SWBT's usage data for traffic passed between its network and e.spire's network is unreliable, and indeed, incorrect. The result is that SWBT has substantially underpaid e.spire for the reciprocal compensation it is due. Prior to the grant of SBC's application, the Commission must demand that SBC reconcile the inconsistencies between SWBT's usage data and that of e.spire.

⁷ SWBT Brief, 119.

IV. PRIOR TO GRANTING SBC SECTION 271 RELIEF THE COMMISSION SHOULD ESTABLISH A FRESH LOOK FOR FACILITIES BASED CARRIERS LOCKED INTO TERM AND VOLUME COMMITMENTS ON LARGE NUMBERS OF SPECIAL ACCESS CIRCUITS

In its *UNE Remand Order* the Commission concluded that “a requesting carrier is entitled to obtain existing combinations of loop and transport between the end user and the incumbent LEC’s serving wire center on an unrestricted basis at unbundled network element prices,” (i.e. enhanced extended links or “EELs”) and that a carrier that is collocated in a serving wire center is free to order combinations of loops and dedicated transport to that serving wire center as unbundled network elements in order to substitute incumbent LEC’s regulated Special Access services.⁸ In response to ILEC concerns associated with allowing the conversion of existing regulated Special Access services to combinations of unbundled loops and transport, the Commission, on November 24, 1999 modified the conclusion it reached in paragraph 486 of the *UNE Remand Order*, and stated that ILECs *may* constrain the use of combinations unbundled loops and transport network elements that are being utilized as a substitute for Special Access services which support the universal service fund.⁹ However, the Commission noted that its modification did not affect the ability of CLECs to utilize EELs to provide local exchange service or exchange access service.

⁸ *Implementation of the Local Telecommunications Provisions of the 1996 Act*, CC Docket No. 96-98, *Fourth Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, ¶486 (rel. Nov. 5, 1999) (“*UNE Remand Order*”).

⁹ *Implementation of the Local Telecommunications Provisions of the 1996 Act*, CC Docket No. 96-98, *Supplemental Order*, ¶¶ 4, 7 (rel. Nov. 24, 1999) (“*Supplemental Order*”).

Many CLECs were effectively forced into purchasing special access circuits from RBOCs pursuant to long-term volume and term contracts because they were unable to order UNE combinations as a result of the extensive RBOC campaign to stymie competitors' ability to obtain UNE combinations. But even after the Supreme Court and the Commission have affirmed the legal obligation to provide UNE combinations¹⁰ Many CLECs are effectively precluded from utilizing the EEL arrangement for large volumes of circuits as a result of the massive termination penalties associated with the conversion of special access circuits to EEL arrangements. If e.spire elects to convert its existing special access circuits to EEL arrangements, as it is entitled to do under the Commission's *UNE Remand Order*, pursuant to the terms of SWBT's tariff,¹¹ e.spire will end up paying prohibitive termination penalties. This phenomenon is not unique to e.spire, and, in fact, most facilities-based carriers face a similar burden.

In order to ensure that competitive carriers have the same opportunity to compete for customers in Texas, the Commission should implement a "fresh look" policy for facilities-based carriers locked into contracts for special access circuits with SWBT in Texas. The Commission has previously applied this type of "fresh look" policy to existing telecommunications service contracts of a monopoly carrier when an area previously subject to monopoly control by the dominant carrier opens to competition or where an area is subject to

¹⁰ The Commission's most recent enunciation of this policy came in the Commission's *Supplemental Order*, where the Commission stated that CLECs are entitled to convert Special Access arrangements to EEL arrangements.

¹¹ See SWBT Tariff 73, § 7.20.20.

significant changed circumstances.¹² For example, in 1992, the Commission began opening up the interstate exchange access market to competition by requiring ILECs to offer expanded interconnection.¹³ The Commission concluded that the long-term access contracts, to which many carriers were parties, raised “potential anticompetitive concerns since they tend to ‘lock up’ the access market, and prevent customers from obtaining the benefits of the new, more competitive access environment.”¹⁴ The Commission concluded that customers who were locked into special access arrangements prior to the adoption of the Commission’s order and subject to service terms in excess of three years should be allowed to take a fresh look at the competitive alternatives newly available. Similarly, in light of the Commission’s conclusion in the *UNE Remand Order* that the EEL be made available as a substitute for special access, and commensurate with any grant of 271 authority to SWBT, the Commission should adopt a fresh look policy to permit facilities-based CLECs who are locked into term and volume contracts for special access circuits to terminate such arrangements without incurring any termination

¹² See *Telecommunications Services Inside Wiring; Customer Premises Equipment; Implementation of the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992; Cable Home Wiring*, 13 FCC Rcd 3659 at ¶¶ 202, 264-5 (1997); *Expanded Interconnection with Local Telephone Company Facilities*, 7 FCC Rcd 7369, 7463-7465 (1992), recon., 8 FCC Rcd 7341, 7342-7359 (1993) (fresh look to enable customers to take advantage of new competitive opportunities under special access expanded interconnection), *vacated on other grounds and remanded for further proceedings sub nom. Bell Atlantic Tel. Cos. v. FCC*, 24 F.3d 1441 [75 RR 2d 487] (1994); *Competition in the Interstate Interexchange Marketplace*, CC Docket No. 90-132, Memorandum Opinion and Order on Reconsideration, 7 FCC Rcd 2677, 2681-82 (1992) (“fresh look” in context of 800 bundling with interexchange offerings); *Amendment of the Commission’s Rules Relative to Allocation of the 849-851/894-896 MHz Bands*, 6 FCC Rcd 4582, 4583-84 (1991) (“fresh look” requirements imposed in context of air-ground radiotelephone service as condition of grant of Title III license).

¹³ *In the Matter of Expanded Interconnection with Local Telephone Company Facilities*, Report and Order and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 7 FCC Rcd 7369 (1992).

¹⁴ *Id.*, ¶ 201.

penalties. Doing so is the only way to ensure that CLECs have a fair opportunity to serve customers under the same conditions as SWBT.

V. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, e.spire urges the Commission to deny SBC's application until it has complied with the section 271 competitive checklist and the 1996 Act's goal of widespread and sustainable facilities based local competition is realized.

Respectfully submitted,

E.SPIRE COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

By: 

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Phone (202) 955-9600

Attorneys for E.SPIRE COMMUNICATIONS,
INC.

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

In the Matter of)	
)	
Application of SBC Communications, Inc.)	CC Docket No. 00-04
Pursuant to Section 271 of the)	
Telecommunications Act of 1996)	
To Provide In-Region, InterLATA Services)	
In Texas)	

AFFIDAVIT OF JAMES C. FALVEY

1. My name is James C. Falvey. My business address is 133 National Business Parkway, Suite 200, Annapolis Junction, Maryland, 20701.
2. I am employed as Vice President—Regulatory Affairs by e.spire Communications, Inc. (“e.spire”).
3. E.spire is e.spire is a facilities-based ICP, providing small and medium-sized businesses with a full range of voice services, such as dedicated access, local, and long distance, with advanced data services, such as frame relay, asynchronous transfer mode (“ATM”), and Internet services. e.spire is beginning to roll out digital subscriber line (“DSL”) services throughout its service territory. The Company currently offers voice services in 38 U.S. markets where it has state-of-the-art local fiber optic networks and offers data services in 48 U.S. markets where it provides access to 387 data points-of-presence (“POPs”). E.spire has operational Lucent 5ESS switches in Dallas, El Paso, San Antonio, Austin, and Fort Worth.

**OVERVIEW AND
PURPOSE OF THE AFFIDAVIT**

3. The purpose of my affidavit is to describe my company's experiences obtaining appropriate payment for reciprocal compensation from SWBT.

**SWBT'S USAGE DATA IS INCORRECT AND RESULTS
IN UNDER PAYMENT OF THE RECIPROCAL COMPENSATION DUE TO E.SPIRE**

4. SWBT's usage data appears to underestimate significantly the amount of local traffic that e.spire receives from SWBT customers. SWBT is required by the terms of the e.spire/SWBT interconnection agreement to record local minutes originating with SWBT and terminating to e.spire. SWBT's reports to e.spire, however, have proven to be highly unreliable when compared to e.spire's reports measuring the same traffic. e.spire's reports have been accepted by Bell Atlantic, BellSouth, and GTE as an accurate means of estimating the amount of local traffic terminating to e.spire.
5. Upon information and belief, SWBT has identified similar discrepancies between its local traffic reports and the reports of other CLECs, yet SWBT is not willing to accept e.spire's traffic reports, as BellSouth and GTE have done in the past. The attached confidential charts indicate the differences between e.spire's local traffic numbers and SWBT's local traffic numbers in a number of cities

6. This concludes my affidavit.

Executed this ___th day of January, 2000

James C. Falvey

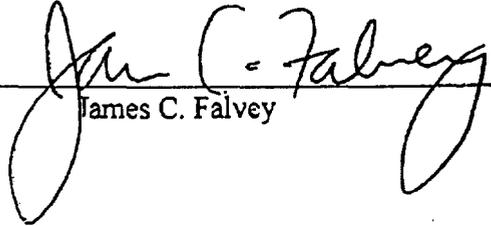
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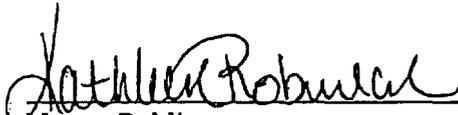
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6. This concludes my affidavit.

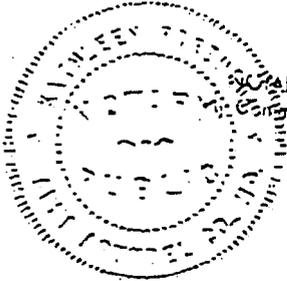
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James C. Falvey

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Notary Public

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KATHLEEN ROBINSON
NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF MARYLAND
Commission Expires November 29, 2000

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

In the Matter of)	
)	
Application of SBC Communications, Inc.)	CC Docket No. 00-04
Pursuant to Section 271 of the)	
Telecommunications Act of 1996)	
To Provide In-Region, InterLATA Services)	
In Texas)	

AFFIDAVIT OF GEORGE WONG

1. My name is George Wong. My business address is 12975 Worldgate Drive, Herndon, Virginia 20170.
2. I am employed as Senior Manager – Strategic Planning by e.spire Communications, Inc. (“e.spire”).
3. e.spire is a facilities based ICP, providing small and medium-sized businesses with a full range of voice services, such as dedicated access, local, and long distance, with advanced data services, such as frame relay, asynchronous transfer mode (“ATM”), and Internet services. e.spire is beginning to roll out digital subscriber line (“DSL”) services throughout its service territory. The Company currently offers voice services in 38 U.S. markets where it has state-of-the-art local fiber optic networks and offers data services in 48 U.S. markets where it provides access to 387 data points-of-presence (“POPs”). e.spire has operational Lucent 5ESS switches in Dallas, El Paso, San Antonio, Austin, and Fort Worth.

4. e.spire offers facilities-based services to small and medium size business customers within Texas. e.spire views its market as primarily customers with approximately 2 to 50 lines. e.spire also offers local services to residential customers in Texas, using total service resale and UNEs.

**OVERVIEW AND
PURPOSE OF THE AFFIDAVIT**

5. In this affidavit, I will address e.spire's difficulties in obtaining local interconnection trunks from Southwestern Bell Telephone ("SWBT") on a timely basis. In addition, I will address SWBT's inability to provision unbundled local loops in a reliable manner using SWBT's "frame due time" cutover process.
6. I will explain how the difficulties faced by e.spire in the interconnection trunk planning and provisioning process have led to unreasonable delays in the trunk provisioning process, and accordingly, impeded e.spire's ability to compete with SWBT. It will also explain how SWBT's discrimination against e.spire is preventing us from offering the same level of service that SWBT offers to its own local customers.

**SWBT UNREASONABLY DELAYS THE
PROVISIONING OF LOCAL INTERCONNECTION TRUNKS**

7. e.spire currently provides local service in Austin, El Paso, San Antonio, Dallas, and Fort Worth. I have had e.spire's experience that SWBT has consistently delayed provisioning to e.spire the local interconnection trunks we need, despite e.spire's full compliance with our interconnection agreement with SWBT and SWBT's ordering procedures.

8. e.spire's experience with SWBT in ordering trunks in the Dallas/Fort Worth area typifies the delays imposed upon e.spire and which are hindering our ability to serve our customers. Following e.spire's submission of its year-end 1999 trunking requirements to SWBT on September 10, 1999, a planning meeting was scheduled for September 17, 1999 at which time SWBT was to have provided e.spire with a written feasibility study, including delivery schedules, quantities of trunks, ASR dates, and issues associated with the forecasts and dates for those issues to be resolved. e.spire received no such document at the September 17 meeting. Instead, SWBT indicated that it wished to discuss e.spire's requirements for trunks in Dallas/Fort Worth and how it planned to alleviate the congestion problem that existed there.
9. On October 1, 1999, e.spire received a traffic study report from SWBT for Dallas/Fort Worth. In response to SWBT's traffic study, e.spire revised its trunk forecast, and provided SWBT with a revised forecast on October 21, 1999. However, despite having sent the forecast once, e.spire was asked to re-send the Dallas/Fort Worth forecast on November 4, 1999.
10. On November 8, 1999 e.spire received from SWBT an ASR and trunk delivery schedule for Dallas providing for delivery dates ranging from December 4 to December 20, 1999. SWBT stated that it could not expedite or improve the delivery schedule due resource limitations occurring because of the holidays.

11. Fundamentally, it is not SWBT's role to second-guess e.spire's trunking requirements. While it is certainly to SWBT's benefit to control the speed with which competitors' turn up new customers, it is completely inappropriate for SWBT to unilaterally limit e.spire's ability to sign up new customers, and expand capacity for existing customers. As long as SWBT continues to play this role, local competition will not exist in Texas. e.spire has amply demonstrated in Texas and elsewhere that when it forecasts requirements for interconnection trunking, the trunking will soon be filled to capacity.
12. In addition to second-guessing e.spire's requirements, SWBT has not been cooperative in assisting e.spire to work through capacity problems in Dallas/Ft. Worth and elsewhere in Texas. SWBT has not been willing to provide e.spire with regular, comprehensive trunking reports that would assist e.spire in planning its capacity requirements. When e.spire has had blockage on its tandem trunks originating from SWBT, e.spire has requested trunking reports from SWBT to determine from which end offices the capacity overload originates. This would permit SWBT to alleviate the blockage through direct end office trunking from those end offices. SWBT has, with one exception, refused to provide such reports. More importantly, SWBT has refused to take a proactive role in managing the traffic coming off of its network to e.spire, letting tandem trunks become blocked and, even then, only taking initiative upon repeated requests from e.spire.

13. Most of our critical loading/high utilization trunks are the reciprocal/incoming trunks with traffic originating from SWBT and terminating at our switch. We do not see an active role from SWBT in forecasting their reciprocal trunks and sending us ASR requests for additional capacity augments. SWBT is imposing a new limitation to e.spire and that our tandem trunks can not be larger than one (1) DS-3 (or 672 DS-0 members). Any additional tandem trunk requirements are forced to be equally distributed across the Direct End-office Trunks (DEOTs). We should be getting recommendations from SWBT regarding what additional end-offices we should be adding as we do not have visibility into SWBT's network and originating traffic patterns

SWBT LIMITS E.SPIRE'S ABILITY TO AUGMENT TRUNK REQUIREMENTS

14. Besides unreasonably delaying the provisioning of trunks, SWBT imposes unreasonable and discriminatory conditions on e.spire's ability to augment existing trunk groups. Even in instances where e.spire has demonstrated that it is experiencing blockage and an inability to serve new customers, e.spire is given only a fraction of the capacity that it has requested.
15. Further, SWBT restricts e.spire's ability to revise its trunk forecasts once the forecast is provided. Without the ability to update our trunk requirements based upon changes in customer needs and increased sales, e.spire's ability to effectively compete in the Texas market is greatly inhibited.
16. This concludes my affidavit.

Executed this ___ day of January, 2000

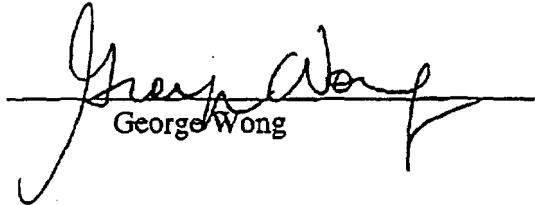
George Wong

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me this ___ day of January, 2000

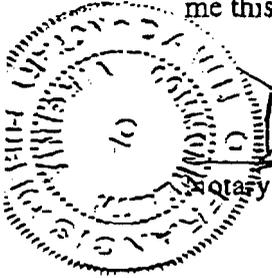
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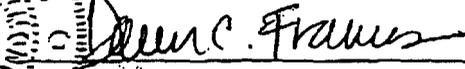
My Commission expires: _____

Executed this 31ST day of January, 2000


George Wong

SWORN TO and subscribed before
me this 31ST day of January, 2000





Notary Public

**MY COMMISSION
EXPIRES ON 12/31/02**

My Commission expires: _____