BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO DOCKETING DIVISION

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In The Matter Of The Application Of The Ohio Bell Telephone Company For Approval Of An Alternative Form Of Regulation.

CASE NO. 93-487-TP-ALT

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In The Matter Of The Complaint Of The Office Of Consumers' Counsel,

Complainant,

Ohio Bell Telephone Company,

v.

Respondent,

Relative To The Alleged Unjust And Unreasonable Rates And Charges.

CASE NO. 93-576-TP-CSS

MOTION TO INTERVENE

The Ohio Public Communications Association hereby moves the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio to grant its intervention in that portion of the above-captioned case identified as Case No. 93-576-TP-CSS pursuant to Ohio Revised Code § 4903.221 and Ohio Administrative Code § 4901-01-11. The basis for this Motion to Intervene is set forth in the attached Memorandum in Support.

Respectfully submitted,

Jahine L. Migden, Trial Attorney Maureen R. Grady Randy J. Hart 431 E. Broad Street, Suite 200 Columbus, Ohio 43215 (614) 221-0240 Counsel for the OPCA

OF COUNSEL:

HAHN LOESER & PARKS

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO INTERVENE

INTRODUCTION

The Ohio Public Communications Association ("OPCA" or "Association") is a nonprofit trade association organized and existing under the laws of the State of Ohio. The OPCA's membership consists primarily of private, non-Local Exchange Company payphone providers as well as providers of Alternative Operator Services. Thirty-four (34) payphone service providers representing over 4000 service customers comprise the OPCA, and each of the 34 service providers operate at least partially in Ohio Bell's service territory. The goal of the Association is to improve the competitive environment of telecommunications in the State of Ohio.

On March 23, 1993, Ohio Bell filed its Notice of Intent for an Application for an Alternative Regulation Plan. On June 30, 1993, Ohio Bell filed its application for approval of an alternative form of regulation. In its Application, Ohio Bell asks the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("PUCO" or "Commission") for permission to operate under the alternative regulation scheme proposed in Ohio Revised Code §§ 4927.

Thereafter, the OPCA applied for, and was granted, intervention in that portion of this proceeding known as Ohio Bell's Alternative Regulation Proceeding, Case No. 93-487-TP-ALT. The OPCA now seeks intervention in the remainder of this proceeding to wit, the Complaint proceeding instituted by the Office of Consumers' Counsel, known as Case No. 93-576-TP-CSS.

STANDING TO INTERVENE

OPCA seeks intervention in this proceeding pursuant to Ohio Revised Code § 4903.221, which states in part:

Any ... person who may be adversely affected by a public utilities commission proceeding may intervene in such a proceeding provided: ... that such other person files a motion to intervene with the commission.

This statute goes on to state that:

The commission, in ruling upon applications to intervene in its own proceedings, shall consider the following criteria:

(1) The nature and extent of the intervenor's interest;

(2) The legal position advanced by the prospective intervenor and its probable relation to the merits of the case;

(3) Whether the intervention by the prospective intervenor will unduly prolong or delay the proceedings;

(4) Whether the prospective intervenor will significantly contribute to full development and equitable resolution of the factual issues.

Ohio Revised Code § 4903.221(B).

As payphone operators and customers of Ohio Bell, OPCA has substantial business interests in the rates charged by Ohio Bell, interests which may be adversely affected by this proceeding in that the Consumers' Counsel complaint addresses, *inter alia*, rate issues. The intervenors' legal position is directly related to the merits of the proceeding, i.e., the conditions and rates that private payphone operators, as customers of Ohio Bell, must pay for telephone services. This position is fully articulated in the OPCA's Motion to Intervene previously filed in Case No. 93-487-TP-ALT, a case in which the Commission has already granted the OPCA intervention.

Due to its prior intervention in the Alternative Regulation portion of this proceeding, the instant intervention, if granted, will not unduly prolong or delay the proceeding because the issues that the OPCA seeks to raise in this proceeding are virtually identical to those which it plans to raise in the portion of Ohio Bell's alternative regulation proceeding to which it has already been granted intervention. The OPCA does not foresee any additional discovery or other procedural issues emanating from its intervention in this proceeding.

WHEREFORE, for the reasons articulated above and contained in the OPCA's Motion to Intervene in Case No. 93-487-TP-ALT, the OPCA respectfully requests that the Commission grant its motion to intervene in this Case No. 93-576-TP-CSS.

Respectfully submitted,

OF COUNSEL:

HAHN LOESER & PARKS

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COUNSEL FOR THE OHIO PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Motion to Intervene and Memorandum in Support has been served by first class mail, postage prepaid, or hand delivered to the following parties of record this 25th day of March, 1994.

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