

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
STATE OF MISSOURI**

Application of Alma Communications	)	
Company, d/b/a Alma Telephone	)	
Company, for Approval of an	)	
Interconnection Agreement	)	Case No. _____
with Verizon Wireless Pursuant to	)	
the Telecommunications Act of 1996.	)	

**APPLICATION OF ALMA COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY, D/B/A ALMA  
TELEPHONE COMPANY, FOR APPROVAL OF AN INTERCONNECTION  
AGREEMENT WITH VERIZON WIRELESS PURSUANT TO THE  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996**

Comes now Alma Communications Company, d/b/a Alma Telephone Company, (“Alma”) and hereby files its Application for Approval of an Interconnection Agreement between Alma and Verizon Wireless LLC, CyberTel Cellular Telephone Company, St. Joseph CellTelco and Celco Partnership, all d/b/a Verizon Wireless (collectively, “Verizon Wireless”) pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (“the Act”). In support of this application, Alma states to the Commission:

1. Alma is a small rural incumbent local exchange carrier operating in the west-central Missouri area.
2. Alma is a Missouri corporation in good standing with the Missouri Secretary of State.
3. Correspondence, orders, and decisions in this matter directed to Alma should be addressed to:

Andy Heins, Manager  
Alma Telephone Company  
206 S. County Road  
Alma, MO 64001  
(660) 674-2297  
(660) 674-2613 FAX

and to:

Craig S. Johnson  
Attorney at Law  
1648-A East Elm  
Jefferson City, MO 65101  
(573) 632-1900  
(573) 634-6018 FAX

4. Verizon Wireless is a commercial mobile radio service carrier operating in Missouri.

5. Correspondence, orders, and decision in this matter directed to Verizon Wireless should be addressed to:

Verizon Wireless  
1120 Sanctuary Parkway, Suite 150  
Alpharetta, GA 30004  
Attn: Associate Director, Interconnection

and to:

Verizon Wireless  
1300 I. Street, NW, Suite 400  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Attn: Regulatory Counsel, Interconnection

## **I. AGREEMENT REACHED**

6. On January 8, 2008, after good faith negotiations, Alma and Verizon Wireless executed an Interconnection Agreement ("Agreement") pursuant to the terms of

the Act (Attachment I). This is a bilateral agreement, reached as a result of negotiations and compromise between the parties.

7. Pursuant to Section 252 of the Telecommunications Act, Alma hereby submits this Agreement for approval by the Commission.

8. The Agreement complies with Section 252(e) of the Act. The Agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity and does not discriminate against any telecommunications carrier. The Agreement consists of 17 pages, consecutively numbered. There are no outstanding issues between Alma and Verizon Wireless that need the assistance of mediation or arbitration.

## **II. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL**

9. Alma respectfully requests that the Commission approve this agreement, without change, suspension or delay in its implementation.

## **III. COMMISSION AUTHORITY**

10. Under the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (“the Act”), the Commission has the authority to grant the relief requested by Alma. Specifically, section 252 (a) of the act provides:

### **(a) Agreements Arrived at Through Negotiations**

(1) Voluntary Negotiations - upon receiving a request for interconnection, services, or network elements pursuant to section 251, an incumbent local exchange carrier may negotiate and enter into a binding agreement with requesting telecommunications carrier or carriers without regard to the standards set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 251. The agreement shall include a detailed schedule of itemized charges for interconnection in each service or network element included in the agreement. The agreement, including any interconnection agreement negotiated before the date of

enactment of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, shall be submitted to the state commission under subsection (e) of this section.

#### **IV. STANDARD OF REVIEW**

11. Under Section 252 of the Act, the Commission has the authority to approve this negotiated agreement. The Commission may reject an agreement if it is discriminatory to a nonparty or is inconsistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity. Section 252(e)(2) of the act provides as follows:

Grounds for Rejection -- The State Commission may only reject --

- (A) an agreement (or any portion thereof) adopted by negotiation under section (a) if it finds that –
  - (i) the agreement (or portion thereof) discriminates against a telecommunications carrier, not a party to the agreement; or
  - (ii) the implementation of such agreement or portion is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity;

12. The attached verification of Mr. Andy Heins, Manager of Alma, establishes that the agreement satisfies these standards.

#### **V. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

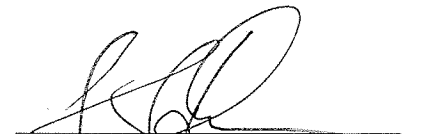
WHEREFORE, Alma respectfully requests the Commission to issue an order that approves the interconnection agreement between Alma and Verizon Wireless.



Craig S. Johnson, Atty.  
Mo Bar # 28179  
1648-A East Elm St.  
Jefferson City, MO 65101  
(573) 632-1900  
(573) 634-6018 (fax)  
[craig@csjohnsonlaw.com](mailto:craig@csjohnsonlaw.com)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of this pleading was mailed to the attorneys for Staff, OPC, and to Verizon Wireless by electronic mail this 15 day of January, 2008.



Craig S. Johnson

## VERIFICATION

I, Andy Heins, Manager of Alma Communications Company d/b/a Alma Telephone Company, hereby verify that I am over the age of twenty-one, and have personal knowledge of the interconnection agreement negotiated between Alma and Verizon Wireless, and executed as of January 8, 2008.

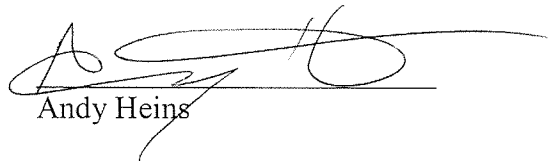
The parties negotiated diligently under the Telecommunication Act of 1996, culminating in the executed agreement for which approval is sought by this Application.

The Agreement is the result of negotiation and compromise.

There are no outstanding issues between the parties and that need the assistance of mediation or arbitration.

Approval of this Agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity, as it will allow the exchange of traffic between Alma and Verizon Wireless.

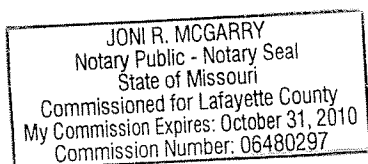
This Agreement does not discriminate against any telecommunication carrier not a party to the Agreement.

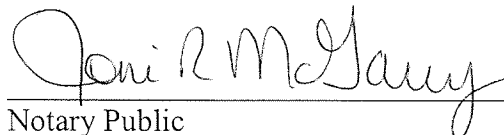
  
Andy Heins

STATE OF MISSOURI                    )  
  )  
COUNTY OF LAFAYETTE            )

(notary seal)

Before me this 10 day of January, 2008, personally appeared Andy Heins, duly sworn and on his oath, deposed and said the foregoing verification was true to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief.



  
Notary Public

My seal expires: 10-31-2010