

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

In the Matter of CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC's)	
Application for a Commission Finding that 55)	
Percent of CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC's Total)	Case No.
Subscriber Access Lines are Located in Exchanges)	
Where Services Have Been Declared Competitive)	

**CENTURYTEL OF MISSOURI, LLC'S APPLICATION
FOR COMPETITIVE CLASSIFICATION**

COMES NOW CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC ("CenturyTel"), pursuant to Section 392.245.5(7), RSMo, as amended by House Bill 1779,¹ and hereby respectfully requests the Missouri Public Service Commission to make a finding that 55 percent or more of CenturyTel's total subscriber access lines in Missouri are in exchanges where its services have been declared competitive by the Commission and to deem CenturyTel to be a competitive company under the provisions of Section 392.245.5(7), RSMo. The Commission has previously granted competitive classification to CenturyTel's residential services in 19 of its exchanges, and to CenturyTel's business services in 26 of its exchanges. CenturyTel's subscriber access lines in these competitively-classified exchanges constitute 57 percent of CenturyTel's total subscriber access lines, meeting the requirements of Section 392.245.5(7) for competitive company classification. In support of its application for competitive classification, CenturyTel states as follows:

1. CenturyTel is a Louisiana limited liability corporation that is duly authorized to do business in the state of Missouri. Copies of CenturyTel's Certificate of Authority to transact business in Missouri from the Missouri Secretary of State were filed in Case No. TM-2002-232, and are incorporated herein by reference pursuant to

¹ All statutory references to Section 392.245.5, RSMo, refer to the revised statute pursuant to House Bill 1779 ("HB 1779"), effective August 28, 2008.

Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.060(1)(G). CenturyTel is a “local exchange telecommunications company” and a “public utility,” and is duly authorized to provide “telecommunications service” within the State of Missouri as each of those terms is defined in Section 386.020, RSMo. 2000. Pursuant to the Commission’s *Report and Order* issued in Case No. TM-2002-232, CenturyTel is a large incumbent local exchange carrier subject to Price Cap Regulation under Section 392.245 RSMo.

2. All correspondence, communications, and orders and decisions of the Commission issued in this matter should be sent to:

Becky Owenson Kilpatrick
CenturyTel
220 Madison Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101
Telephone: (573) 634-4261
Facsimile: (573) 636-6826

3. CenturyTel has no pending action or final unsatisfied judgments or decisions against it from any state or federal agency or court that involve customer service or rates, which action, judgment or decision has occurred within three (3) years of the date of the Application. No Missouri annual reports or assessment fees are overdue.

4. Missouri statute Section 392.245.5(7) RSMo., allows carriers subject to Price Cap Regulation to seek company-wide competitive classification as follows:

“(7) Upon a finding that fifty-five percent or more of an incumbent local exchange telecommunications company's total subscriber access lines are in exchanges where such company's services have been declared competitive, the incumbent local exchange telecommunications company shall be deemed competitive and shall no longer be subject to price-cap regulation, except that rates charged for basic local telecommunications service in exchanges that were noncompetitive immediately prior to this finding can be increased to a rate that is no higher than the statewide average rate for basic local telecommunications service in the incumbent local exchange company's competitively classified exchanges for a period of four years. During the four year period, any annual increase in rates for residential basic local telecommunications service shall not exceed two dollars per line per month. Rates charged for exchange access service by

an incumbent local exchange telecommunications company deemed competitive shall not exceed the rates charged at the time the company was deemed competitive”.

5. Over the course of four years and five proceedings, the Commission previously granted CenturyTel competitive classification for its residential services, other than exchange access services, in 19 exchanges; and for its business services, other than exchange access services in 26 exchanges, summarized in the following table:

Case No.	Exchanges Granted Competitive Classification for Residential Services	Exchanges Granted Competitive Classification for Business Services
IO-2006-0109	Dardenne, O’Fallon, St. Peters & Wentzville	Bourbon, Columbia, Cuba, O’Fallon, St. James, St. Peters & Wentzville
IO-2006-0316	Ava, Columbia, Crane, Marshfield & Seymour	
IO-2007-0440	Bourbon, Cabool, Cassville, Cuba, Forsyth, Kimberling City & Mansfield	Branson, Ozark & Troy
IO-2008-0243	Branson, Exeter & Rockaway Beach	Dardenne, Hallsville, Warrenton, Winfield & Wright City
IO-2009-0124		Ava, Cabool, Cassville, Crane, Exeter, Forsyth, Kimberling City, Mansfield, Marshfield, Rockaway Beach & Seymour

6. CenturyTel further notes that this Commission, in Case No. IO-2008-0096, reviewed the competitive status of services previously found to be competitive in Case Nos. IO-2006-0109; IO-2006-0316; and IO-2007-0440. The Commission found that “competition, as defined by Section 392.245.5, RSMo Supp. 2006, continues to exist in those exchanges of CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC, that the Commission previously classified as competitive.”

7. CenturyTel hereby exercises its statutory right to be classified as a competitive telecommunications company. As demonstrated in the Affidavit of Arthur P. Martinez, Director – Government Relations for the Missouri Region, attached hereto as Exhibit A, the subscriber access lines in CenturyTel’s exchanges where residential and business services have been found to be competitive by the Commission constitute 57 percent of CenturyTel’s total subscriber access lines. In support of Mr. Martinez’s Affidavit, CenturyTel has attached hereto an a document marked as Exhibit B (**HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL**) showing the specific number of subscriber access lines deemed competitive in the exchanges outlined in paragraph 5, *supra*, as well as the total number of subscriber access lines served by CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC.

8. CenturyTel’s Application for Competitive Classification is not a request for any price changes. CenturyTel acknowledges that all rates currently in effect for these exchanges will remain in effect until such time that CenturyTel files a tariff requesting a price change. CenturyTel will be required to file tariffs for any future price changes, either increases or decreases, associated with these exchanges and will be required to notify its customers of any future price increase.

WHEREFORE CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC respectfully requests the Commission to issue an order: (1) finding that 55 percent of more of CenturyTel's total subscriber access lines are in exchanges where its services have been declared competitive; and (2) deeming CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC a competitive company and no longer subject to price-cap regulation pursuant to Section 392.245.5 (7) RSMo.

Respectfully submitted,

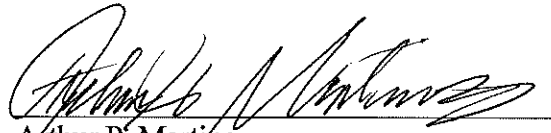
/s/ Becky Owenson Kilpatrick

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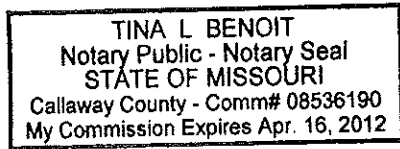
Attorney for CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC

VERIFICATION

I, Arthur P. Martinez, Director Government Relations for CenturyTel, hereby verify and affirm that I have read the foregoing Application for Competitive Classification and that the statements contained therein are true and correct to the best of my information and belief.


Arthur P. Martinez

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 19th day of November, 2008.




Notary Public

My Appointment Expires: *April 16, 2012*

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that on this 20th day of November, 2008, a copy of the above and foregoing document and attachments were served via electronic mail, facsimile or U.S. Mail, postage prepaid to each of the following:

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/s/ Becky Owenson Kilpatrick