

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

In the Matter of the Request from the Customers in the)
Rockaway Beach Exchange for an Expanded Calling) Case No. TO-2003-0257
Scope to Make Toll-Free Calls to Branson.)

**PROGRESS REPORT
AND
JOINT MOTION FOR FURTHER STAY OF PROCEEDINGS**

COME NOW the Office of the Public Counsel (“Public Counsel”), the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Staff”) and CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC (“CenturyTel”) (collectively referred to herein as the “Parties”), pursuant to the Commission’s Order Granting Additional Continuance entered in this matter on April 27, 2004, and for their Progress Report and Joint Motion for Further Stay of Proceedings respectfully state as follows:

1. In response to the Parties' previous requests for continuances filed in this matter, the Commission has accommodated the Parties' desire that the Commission defer any action in response to Public Counsel's petition, in order to allow CenturyTel the opportunity to continue to address the issues presented on an informal basis.¹

2. As noted in the Parties' most recent pleading, the Commission issued its *Order Directing Notice and Establishing Working Group* on March 18, 2004, wherein the Commission established Case No. TW-2004-0471 to investigate the Metropolitan Calling Area Plan and calling scopes in Missouri. As stated in that Order: "The Commission anticipates that this working group or Task Force will investigate and consider whether

¹ *Order Directing Filing*, April 7, 2003; *Order Granting Continuance*, May 14, 2003; *Second Order Granting Continuance*, November 3, 2003; *Order Granting Additional Continuance*, April 27, 2004.

the MCA plan, and calling scopes in general, should be amended, and if so, how. Included in this review must be a thorough analysis of whether, and if so, what type of, changes should be made to rural calling scopes.” (*Order* at 3). The Commission further explained that it envisioned the Task Force’s analysis would include a review of various consumer petitions (*e.g.*, Case Nos. TO-2001-391 and TO-2003-0298), as well as the issues raised by Public Counsel in Case No. TO-2003-0297, regarding expanded local calling plans in rural Missouri.

3. The Parties have actively participated in Case No. TW-2004-0471, with all having representatives formally appointed as members of the Task Force. On August 15, 2004, the Chairman of the MCA/Calling Scope Task Force filed his Status Report in that Case File, reporting that Task Force meetings were held on June 15, June 24, July 7 and July 21, 2004. He further reported that during the July 21st meeting, the Task Force decided to form a subcommittee, and that “subcommittee is expected to develop policy proposals for the Task Force’s consideration.” In addition, the Status Report noted that bi-weekly meetings are scheduled through October 13, 2004, and additional meetings may be scheduled on an as needed basis.

4. Given the continuing activities of the MCA/Calling Scope Task Force and its anticipated policy proposals that may well impact the issues to be addressed herein, the Parties respectfully request that the Commission continue to defer any action in response to Public Counsel’s petition until the MCA/Calling Scope Task Force concludes its work. While such a deferral does not provide a date certain, the Parties again affirm that they will file a report within thirty (30) days of the final action of the MCA/Calling Scope Task Force, to outline the posture of this case at that time.

WHEREFORE, the Office of the Public Counsel, the Staff of the Commission and CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC respectfully move that the Commission (1) accept this Progress Report as responsive to the Commission's Order Granting Additional Continuance; and (2) issue an Order in this matter further staying any action in response to Public Counsel's petition and requiring the Parties to file a report within thirty (30) days of the final action of the MCA/Calling Scope Task Force, outlining the posture of this case at that time.

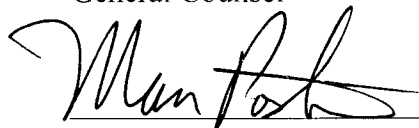
Respectfully submitted,

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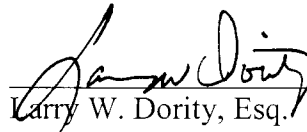
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I do hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document has been hand-delivered, transmitted by e-mail or mailed, First Class, postage prepaid, to all counsel of record this 31st day of August, 2004.



Larry W. Dority