

# BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Notice of Election of Iowa	)	
Telecommunications Services, Inc., d/b/a Iowa	)	
Telecom, for Waiver of Commission Rules and	)	<b><u>File No. IE-2010-0183</u></b>
Statutes Pursuant to Section 392.420, RSMo,	)	Tariff No. YI-2010-0385
as Amended by H.B. 1779.	)	

## ORDER CONCERNING ELECTION OF WAIVERS

Issue Date: December 21, 2009

Effective Date: December 21, 2009

On August 28, 2008, House Bill 1779 became effective, modifying § 392.420, RSMo 2000, so that it now provides, in pertinent part:

Notwithstanding any other provision of law in this chapter and chapter 386, RSMo, where an alternative local exchange telecommunications company is authorized to provide local exchange telecommunications services in an incumbent local exchange telecommunications company's authorized service area, the incumbent local exchange telecommunications company may opt into all or some of the above-listed statutory and commission rule waivers by filing a notice of election with the commission that specifies which waivers are elected.

On December 15, 2009, Iowa Telecommunications Services, Inc., d/b/a Iowa Telecom, filed notification with the Missouri Public Service Commission that it elects to waive certain Commission rules and statutory provisions pursuant to § 392.420, RSMo. Iowa Telecom has also submitted a tariff filing to identify these waivers in the Company's tariff. That tariff filing has been assigned Tariff File No. YI-2010-0385 and bears a proposed effective date of January 14, 2010.

On December 18, 2009, the Commission Staff submitted its memorandum concerning the notice. It noted that:

1. Iowa Telecom is an incumbent local exchange telecommunications company as that term is used in Section 392.420.

2. Prior Commission cases and annual reports confirm that alternative local exchange telecommunications companies are authorized to provide service in Iowa Telecom's territory.

3. Iowa Telecom is currently compliant in obligations relating to Commission assessment, Missouri Universal Service Fund, Relay Missouri, and the submission of an annual report.

The waivers into which Iowa Telecom has opted are:

- 4 CSR 240-3.550(4) and (5)(A) – Held order records, quality of service reports.
- 4 CSR 240-32.060 – Engineering and maintenance
- 4 CSR 240-32.070 – Quality of Service
- 4 CSR 240-32.080 – Service objectives and surveillance levels
- 4 CSR 240-33.040(1) through (3) and (5) through (10) – Billing and payment standards
- 4 CSR 240-33.045 – Clear identification and placement of charges on bills
- 392.210(2) – Accounting requirements (system of accounts)
- 392.240(1) – Reasonableness of rates
- 392.270 – Accounting requirements (valuation of property)
- 392.280 – Accounting requirements (depreciation rates/accounts)
- 392.290 – Issuance of stocks, bonds and other indebtedness
- 392.300 – Transfer of property and ownership of stock
- 392.310 – Approval of issuing stocks, bonds and other indebtedness
- 392.320 – Certificate of Commission to be recorded-stock dividends
- 392.330 – Accounting requirements (proceeds of sales of stock, bonds, notes, etc.)
- 392.340 – Company reorganization

The Staff recommends that the Commission take notice of Iowa Telecom's election and either approve the submitted tariffs or allow the tariffs to go into effect by operation of law.

Section 392.420 further provides:

The commission may reimpose its quality of service and billing standards rules, as applicable, on an incumbent local exchange telecommunications company but not on a company granted competitive status under subdivision (7) of subsection 5 of section 392.245 in an exchange where there is no alternative local exchange telecommunications company or interconnected voice over Internet protocol service provider that is

certificated or registered to provide local voice service only upon a finding, following formal notice and hearing, that the incumbent local exchange telecommunications company has engaged in a pattern or practice of inadequate service. Prior to formal notice and hearing, the commission shall notify the incumbent local exchange telecommunications company of any deficiencies and provide such company an opportunity to remedy such deficiencies in a reasonable amount of time, but not less than sixty days. Should the incumbent local exchange telecommunications company remedy such deficiencies within a reasonable amount of time, the commission shall not reimpose its quality of service or billing standards on such company.

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:**

1. Iowa Telecommunications Services, Inc., d/b/a Iowa Telecom's Notice of Election of Commission Rules and Statutes and its tariff filing are acknowledged as received.

2. The Staff of the Commission shall send a public notice to news outlets in the Iowa Telecom's Missouri service area and the State Legislators whose districts are in the service area, notifying the news outlets and State Legislators that the filing company is no longer subject to certain Commission quality of service and billing rules, and also provide a brief description of the rules that are waived. The notice shall also inform the news outlets and State Legislators that although the Commission no longer has jurisdiction to process those complaints, the Commission will continue to track any positive and negative inquiries or complaints about service quality and billing issues.

3. The Commission's Customer Service Staff shall receive and track any positive and negative inquiries or complaints about service quality and billing issues and if Staff determines that the Company has engaged in a pattern or practice of inadequate service in service quality or increase in billing issues, it shall notify the Commission by filing a written report.

4. The Commission will not approve the tariffs, but will allow them to go into effect by operation of law.

5. This order is effective upon issuance, after which this case may be closed.

**BY THE COMMISSION**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Reed', is written over a faint, circular embossed seal.

Steven C. Reed  
Secretary

( S E A L )

Nancy Dippell, Deputy Chief Regulatory  
Law Judge, by delegation of authority  
pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,  
On this 21st day of December, 2009.