

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Interconnection Agreement by)
and Between Metropolitan Telecommunications of)
Missouri, Inc. d/b/a MetTel and Embarq Missouri, Inc.)
d/b/a CenturyLink Pursuant to Sections 251 and 252)
of the Telecommunications Act of 1996)
File No. IK-2023-0172

ORDER APPROVING INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT

Issue Date: January 6, 2023

Effective Date: February 5, 2023

This order approves a negotiated Interconnection Agreement between the parties filed by Embarq Missouri, Inc., d/b/a CenturyLink.

On November 23, 2022, CenturyLink filed an application with the Commission for approval of a negotiated Interconnection Agreement with Metropolitan Telecommunications of Missouri, Inc. d/b/a MetTel under the provisions of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. CenturyLink is certified with the Commission as an incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC). MetTel is certificated with the Commission as a competitive local exchange carrier (CLEC).

Although MetTel is a party to the Agreement, it did not join in the application. On December 2, 2022, the Commission issued an order making MetTel a party in this case and directing any party wishing to request a hearing to do so no later than December 19, 2022. No requests for hearing were filed.

Under Section 252(e) of the Act, any Interconnection Agreement adopted by negotiation must be submitted to the Commission for approval. The Commission may reject an Agreement if it finds that the Agreement is discriminatory or that it is not consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity.

On January 3, 2023, the Staff of the Commission filed a recommendation. Staff recommends that the Agreement be approved and notes that the Agreement meets the limited requirements of the Act in that it is not discriminatory toward nonparties and is not against the public interest.

The Commission has considered the application, the supporting documentation, and Staff's recommendation. Based upon that review, the Commission finds that the Agreement meets the requirements of the Act in that it does not discriminate against a nonparty carrier and implementation of the Agreement is not inconsistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity.

The application represents that the applicant has not had contact with the Office of the Commission about any substantive issue connected to the filing within 60 days before filing the application. On the basis of that representation, for good cause shown, the Commission will waive application of the pre-filing notice requirements of Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1).

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The Interconnection Agreement between CenturyLink and MetTel, filed on November 23, 2022, is approved.
2. This order shall become effective on February 5, 2023.
3. This file may be closed on February 6, 2023.



BY THE COMMISSION

Morris L. Woodruff

Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

Morris L. Woodruff, Chief Regulatory Law
Judge, by delegation of authority pursuant
to Section 386.240, RSMo 2016.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 6th day of January, 2023.


STATE OF MISSOURI

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City, Missouri, this 6th day of January, 2023.




Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

January 6, 2023

File/Case No. IK-2023-0172

**Missouri Public Service
Commission**

Staff Counsel Department
200 Madison Street, Suite 800
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
staffcounsel@psc.mo.gov

Office of the Public Counsel

Marc Poston
200 Madison Street, Suite 650
P.O. Box 2230
Jefferson City, MO 65102
opc@psc.mo.gov

CenturyLink (Embarq Missouri)

Tim Opitz
308 E. High Street, Suite B101
Jefferson City, MO 65101
tim.opitz@opitzlawfirm.com

MetTel

Legal Department
55 Water Street, 32nd Floor
New York, NY 10041

**Missouri Public Service
Commission**

Ron Irving
200 Madison Street, Suite 800
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Ron.Irving@psc.mo.gov

Enclosed find a certified copy of an Order or Notice issued in the above-referenced matter(s).

Sincerely,



**Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary**

Recipients listed above with a valid e-mail address will receive electronic service. Recipients without a valid e-mail address will receive paper service.