

**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)	<u>Case No. IK-2023-0172</u>
MetTel and Embarras Missouri, Inc. d/b/a)	
CenturyLink Pursuant to Sections 251 and)	
252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996)	

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission and submits its
Recommendation as follows:

1. On 11/23/2022, pursuant to 20 CSR 4240-28.013(2)(B), Embarras Missouri, Inc. d/b/a/ CenturyLink filed with the Public Service Commission its *Application for Approval of an Interconnection Agreement* between itself and Metropolitan Telecommunications of Missouri, Inc., d/b/a/ MetTel, under the provisions of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996.

2. 47 USC 252(e)(2) (2022) provides that a state commission may reject an interconnection agreement adopted by negotiation only if the agreement discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to it or its implementation is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.

3. In lieu of a Memorandum, Staff hereby states that the Interconnection Agreement does not discriminate against telecommunications carriers not parties to it, nor is its implementation inconsistent with the public interest, convenience or necessity. A copy of the Agreement was filed with the Application. The application notes that the parties have been operating under this agreement since 2009 as if it were approved. In addition, the agreement submitted with the application references and incorporates an Interconnection, Collocation and Resale Agreement for the State of Missouri

("Adopted Agreement"), dated November 5, 2008. The Adopted Agreement was approved by the Commission in TK-2009-0241.

4. CenturyLink is certified with the Commission as incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC). MetTel is certificated with the Commission as a competitive local exchange carrier (CLEC).

WHEREFORE, Staff recommends the Commission approve the Application and grant such other and further relief as the Commission finds appropriate under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Curt Stokes

Curt Stokes
Chief Deputy Counsel
Mo. Bar No. 59836
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-4227 (Telephone)
(573) 751-9285 (Facsimile)
Curtis.Stokes@psc.mo.gov

**Counsel for Staff of the
Missouri Public Service Commission**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by electronic mail, or First Class United States Postal Mail, postage prepaid, on this 3rd day of January, 2023, to all counsel of record.

/s/ Curt Stokes