

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

In the Matter of CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC's)
Request for Competitive Classification Pursuant to) Case No. IO-2007-0440
Section 392.245.5 RSMo)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission and states:

1. On May 17, 2007, CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC ("CenturyTel") filed its verified Application for Competitive Classification pursuant to Section 392.245.5, RSMo Cum. Supp. 2005. In its Application, which includes revised tariff sheets with an effective date of June 16, 2007, CenturyTel requests that the Commission classify the business services it offers in its Branson, Crane, Marshfield, Ozark and Troy exchanges, other than exchange access services, as competitive. CenturyTel also requests that the Commission classify the residential services CenturyTel offers in its Bourbon, Branson, Cabool, Cassville, Cuba, Forsyth, Kimberling City, Mansfield and Troy exchanges, other than exchange access services, as competitive. On June 1, 2007, CenturyTel amended its application to delete its request for competitive classification for business services in the Crane and Marshfield exchanges and for residential services in the Branson exchange.

2. The Commission directed the Staff to investigate this matter and to file any objections to and a verified recommendation regarding this matter no later than June 1, 2007.

3. Based upon its investigation, the Staff states that there are at least two (2) qualifying carriers serving CenturyTel's Branson, Ozark and Troy exchanges who are not affiliated with CenturyTel but provide basic local phone service to business customers located in those exchanges. In addition, the competing carriers have local numbers available for use by

business customers in those exchanges. The Staff recommends competitive classification for CenturyTel's business services in those exchanges.

4. Based upon its investigation, the Staff states that it is currently unavailable to independently confirm that there are at least two (2) qualifying carriers serving CenturyTel's Troy exchange who are not affiliated with CenturyTel but provide local phone service to residential customers in those exchanges.

5. Based upon its investigation, the Staff states that there are at least two (2) qualifying carriers serving CenturyTel's Bourbon, Cabool, Cassville, Cuba, Forsyth, Kimberling City and Mansfield exchanges who are not affiliated with CenturyTel but provide basic local phone service to residential customers in those exchanges. In addition, the competing carriers have local numbers for use by residential customers in those exchanges. The Staff recommends competitive classification for CenturyTel's residential services in those exchanges.

6. The Commission's scheduling order provides that if an objection is filed, testimony is due June 4, 2007. Although no objections have been filed, the Staff will explain its investigation in testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ William K. Haas

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Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile or electronically mailed to all counsel of record this 1st day of June 2007.

/s/ William K. Haas

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STATE OF MISSOURI)
) ss
COUNTY OF COLE)

Michael Schepeler
Michael Schepeler

Jan 7, 2008



Notary Public

