

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

In The Matter of CenturyTel of Missouri,       )  
LLC's Request for Competitive                        ) Case No. IO-2006-0109  
Classification Pursuant to Section                )  
392.245.5, RSMo. (2005).                                )

**JOINT RECOMMENDATION OF  
CENTURYTEL OF MISSOURI, LLC,  
COMMISSION STAFF, AND THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL**

Pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.115, CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC ("CenturyTel"), Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Staff"), and the Office of the Public Counsel ("Public Counsel")(collectively the "Signatory Parties") submit this Joint Recommendation as a proposed resolution of the above-captioned case.

1. On September 9, 2005, CenturyTel filed its Application for Competitive Classification pursuant to Section 392.245.5, RSMo. In its application, CenturyTel requested that the Commission classify all of its residential services, other than exchange access service, as competitive for the following exchanges: (a) Bourbon, (b) Branson, (c) Columbia, (d) Dardenne, (e) O'Fallon, (f) St. Peters and (g) Wentzville. In addition, CenturyTel requested competitive classification of all its business services, other than exchange access service, in the following exchanges: (a) Bourbon, (b), Columbia (c) Cuba, (d) Dardenne, (e) O'Fallon, (f) St. James and (g) St. Peters.

2. On September 20, 2005, Staff submitted its Staff Recommendation and Objection with supporting memorandum and schedules, including the Direct Testimony of John Van Eschen. The Staff Recommendation and Objection recommended that the Commission grant CenturyTel's request for competitive classification for residential services in the Dardenne, O'Fallon, St. Peters and Wentzville exchanges, and business

services in the Bourbon, Columbia, Cuba, O'Fallon, St. James, St. Peters, and Wentzville exchanges. The Staff Recommendation and Objection filed on September 19, 2005, also objected to competitive classification of CenturyTel's residential service in the Bourbon, Branson and Columbia exchanges, and CenturyTel's business services for the Dardenne exchange.

3. On September 21, 2005, CenturyTel filed the Direct Testimony of Arthur Martinez which supported CenturyTel's Application For Competitive Classification. In Mr. Martinez' testimony, CenturyTel agreed to withdraw its request for competitive status at this time for residential service in the Bourbon, Branson and Columbia exchanges. Subsequently, on September 23, 2005, CenturyTel filed its Pre-Trial Brief which also withdrew its request for competitive status for business services for the Dardenne exchange.

4. On September 23, 2005, Staff filed its PreTrial Brief, List of Issues and Proposed Findings of Fact And Conclusions of Law in which it recommended approval of CenturyTel's Application For Competitive Classification, for residential services in the Dardenne, O'Fallon, St. Peters and Wentzville exchanges, and business services in the Bourbon, Columbia, Cuba, O'Fallon, St. James, St. Peters, and Wentzville exchanges.

#### **Joint Recommendation**

As a result of discussions among the Staff, Public Counsel, and CenturyTel, the Signatory Parties hereby submit to the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") for its consideration and approval this Joint Recommendation as follows:

Based upon the competent and substantial evidence in this proceeding, the Signatory Parties jointly recommend that the Commission grant CenturyTel's Application

For Competitive Classification, pursuant to Section 392.45.5 RSMo 2005, and classify CenturyTel's residential services, other than exchange access service, as competitive services in the following exchanges: Dardenne, O'Fallon, St. Peters and Wentzville exchanges. In addition, the Signatory Parties jointly recommend that the Commission classify CenturyTel's business services, other than exchange access service, as competitive services in the following exchanges: Bourbon, Columbia, Cuba, O'Fallon, St. James, St. Peters, and Wentzville exchanges.

Respectfully submitted,

**/s/ Larry W. Dority**

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**/s/ David. A. Meyer**

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and

**/s/ Michael F. Dandino**

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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, this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September, 2005, to all counsel of record.

**/s/ Larry W. Dority**  
Larry W. Dority