

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

In the Matter of the Application of)	
Missouri RSA No. 7 Limited Partnership)	
d/b/a Mid-Missouri Cellular)	Case No. TO-2005-0325
for Designation as a Telecommunications)	
Company Carrier Eligible for Federal)	
Universal Service Support pursuant to)	
Section 254 of the Telecommunications)	
Act of 1996.)	

APPLICATION TO INTERVENE

COME NOW Spectra Communications Group, LLC d/b/a CenturyTel (“Spectra”), and CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC (“CenturyTel”), pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.075, and for their Application To Intervene respectfully state as follows:

1. Spectra is a Delaware Limited Liability Company, and a Commission-regulated incumbent local exchange telecommunications company, authorized to do business in Missouri as evidenced by the certificate of authority issued by the Missouri Secretary of State which was filed in Case No. TM-2000-182 and incorporated herein by reference. Spectra operates in Missouri using the fictitious name of “CenturyTel”, pursuant to the registration of fictitious name filed in Case No. TO-2001-437 and incorporated herein by reference. Pursuant to the Commission’s *Order Designating Spectra Communications Group, LLC, As Eligible Carrier* in Case No. TA-2000-817, Spectra is designated as a telecommunications carrier eligible to receive federal universal service support. Spectra provides basic local exchange and intrastate interexchange telecommunications services in Missouri pursuant to certificates of service authority issued and tariffs approved by this Commission.

2. CenturyTel is a Louisiana Limited Liability Company, and a Commission-regulated incumbent local exchange telecommunications company, authorized to do business in Missouri as evidenced by the certificate of authority issued by the Missouri Secretary of State which was filed in Case No. TM-2002-232 and incorporated herein by reference. On August 30, 2002, CenturyTel purchased the local exchange property of GTE Midwest Incorporated d/b/a Verizon Midwest, pursuant to the Commission's Report and Order issued on May 21, 2002 in Case No. TM-2002-232. In that case, the Commission authorized CenturyTel to provide basic local and interexchange telecommunications services in Missouri and it designated CenturyTel as a telecommunications carrier eligible to receive federal universal service support.

3. All communications, correspondence, pleadings, notices and orders relating to this application should be sent to:

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3. On March 25, 2005, Missouri RSA No. 7 Limited Partnership d/b/a Mid-Missouri Cellular ("MMC") filed an Application with the Commission for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier ("ETC") for purposes of qualifying to obtain federal universal service support within the specified service areas of certain rural and

non-rural incumbent telephone companies in the state of Missouri. MMC's ETC geographic service area request, as set forth in its Application and appendices, encompasses wire centers currently served by incumbent local exchange telecommunications companies Spectra and by CenturyTel.

4. On June 2, 2003, MMC filed a similar ETC application with this Commission, docketed as Case No. TO-2003-0531, in which the Commission denied MMC's requested ETC designation.¹ Spectra and CenturyTel were granted intervention and fully participated in Case No. TO-2003-0531.

5. As was the case in Case No. TO-2003-0531, Spectra and CenturyTel oppose the relief sought by MMC in this case and should be granted intervention in this case because MMC is again seeking ETC status in wire centers currently served by Spectra and CenturyTel. Moreover, Spectra meets the federal definition of a rural telephone company in accordance with 47 U.S.C. Section 153(37) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("the Act"). Accordingly, the Commission must find that designating MMC as an ETC in any portion of Spectra's existing service area meets the public interest criterion set forth in Section 214(e)(2) of the Act. Further, federal law requires at 47 U.S.C. Section 214(e)(5) that, "In the case of an area served by a rural telephone company, 'service area' means such company's 'study area' unless and until the Commission and the States, after taking into account recommendations of the Federal-State Joint Board instituted under section 410(c) of this title, establish a different definition of service area for such company". Spectra's existing ETC "study area" in Missouri is much larger than the Spectra wire center specified in MMC's Application.

¹ MMC subsequently sought a Writ of Review of the Commission's decision in the Cole County Circuit Court, Case No. 05AC-CC00017, and that court case is still pending.

6. Accordingly, Spectra and CenturyTel have a direct interest in this proceeding which is different from that of the general public and which could be adversely affected by a final order arising out of this case. No other party can adequately represent Spectra's and CenturyTel's interests in this case. Spectra's and CenturyTel's experience as incumbent ETCs in portions of MMC's requested ETC service area makes granting Spectra's and CenturyTel's intervention in this proceeding in the public interest.

7. MMC also in this case has requested expedited treatment and notes that it has pre-filed direct testimony along with its Application in an effort to expedite the proceeding. However, a considerable portion of MMC's pre-filed direct testimony, and appendices to MMC's Application, have been designated by MMC as *Highly Confidential* and have been filed under seal. As such, counsel for Spectra and CenturyTel—and more importantly their technical experts--have not yet seen or reviewed this purported *Highly Confidential* material. Until such time as Spectra and CenturyTel (as well as potential other intervenors) have had a reasonable opportunity to review this material and discuss with MMC the timing of discovery as well as other issues, consideration of MMC's request for expedited treatment would be premature. If granted intervention, Spectra and CenturyTel intend to attend and fully participate in the early prehearing conference already scheduled for April 27, 2005.

WHEREFORE, having complied with the requirements of 4 CSR 240-2.075, Spectra Communications Group, LLC, d/b/a CenturyTel and CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC respectfully requests that the Commission grant this Application To Intervene in this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Charles Brent Stewart

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CENTURYTEL OF MISSOURI, LLC

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true copy of the foregoing Application To Intervene was sent to counsel for all parties of record in Case No. TO-2005-0325 by depositing same in the U.S. Mail, first class postage prepaid, by hand-delivery, or by electronic mail transmission, this 18th day of April, 2005.

/s/ Charles Brent Stewart
