

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

In the Matter of the Application of)
Windstream Missouri, LLC for Approval)
of an Interconnection Agreement with)
CenturyLink Communications, LLC.)

Case No. IK-2016-0266

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

1. On April 8, 2016, Windstream Missouri, LLC (“Windstream”), filed an application with the Commission for approval of a negotiated interconnection agreement with CenturyLink Communications, LLC, under the provisions of the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. Windstream states that there are no unresolved issues and that the agreement complies with Section 252(e) of the Act in that it is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity, and is not discriminatory to nonparty carriers.

2. Section 47 USC 252(e)(2) provides that a state commission may only reject an interconnection agreement adopted by negotiation 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 negotiated 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 interconnection agreement was filed with the

Application. Windstream is certificated with the Commission as an incumbent local exchange telecommunications company. CenturyLink is certificated in Missouri as a competitive local exchange telecommunications company.

WHEREFORE, Staff recommends the Commission approve the Application and direct the parties to submit to the Commission any modifications or amendments to the Interconnection Agreement.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Kevin A. Thompson

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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 on this 11th day of May, 2016.

/s/ Kevin A. Thompson