

**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	)	<b>Case No. IO-2007-0440</b>
Section 392.245.5, RSMo (2005)	)	

**OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL'S  
RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE CLASSIFICATION**

The Office of Public Counsel asks the Public Service Commission to require strict proof of compliance with the requirements of Section 392.245, RSMo 2000 (as amended 2005) relating to CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC's application that the Commission classify all of its residential services as competitive for the exchanges of: (a) Bourbon, (b) Cabool, (c) Cassville, (d) Cuba, (e) Forsyth, (f) Kimberling City, (g) Mansfield, and (h) Troy; and for all of its business services, other than exchange access services, in the following exchanges: (a) Branson, (b) Ozark and (c) Troy.

1. The reclassification of these exchanges from price cap regulated exchanges to competitive classification has significant impact on the customers in these communities in that they will lose the price cap protection of a 5% limit on non basic services and the annual limit on basic local service of the Consumer Price Index-Telecommunications Services.
2. While Public Counsel does not object to the admission of the Exhibits to the Application or the amendment offered by CenturyTel in support of its application, Public Counsel does not agree or stipulate that those exchanges exhibit sufficient competition that would justify removal of the

consumer protections provided by price cap regulation. Public Counsel cannot stipulate to the reclassification. The threshold for reclassification has been set so low by statute and by the interpretation and application of the statute by a majority of the PSC in prior reclassification cases under the revised price cap statute that Public Counsel cannot consent to the reclassification.

3. Public Counsel is not requesting an evidentiary hearing. Public Counsel does not object to the Commission considering the existing record.

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL

**/s/ Michael F. Dandino**

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### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing was mailed, emailed and/or hand delivered this 1st day of June 2007 to the following attorneys of record:

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**/s/ Michael F. Dandino**

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