

**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-2006-0109
Section 392.245.5, RSMo (2005))

STAFF RECOMMENDATION AND OBJECTION

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission and states for its recommendation and objection:

1. This case involves an application by CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC for competitive classification of its residential and/or business services in certain exchanges under the 30-day track of Section 392.245.5 RSMo, as amended by Senate Bill 237.

2. The Commission's scheduling order directs the Staff to file a recommendation or any objections no later than September 20, 2005. The order further directs that if an objection is filed, then testimony is due from all parties on September 22, 2005.

3. CenturyTel's application asks for competitive classification for residential services, other than exchange access service, for the Bourbon, Branson, Columbia, Dardenne, O'Fallon, St. Peters, and Wentzville exchanges. Spectra's application asks for competitive classification for business services, other than exchange access services, in the Bourbon, Columbia, Cuba, Dardenne, O'Fallon, St. James, St. Peters, and Wentzville exchanges.

4. The Staff is currently unable to confirm that a wireline competitor is providing local voice service to residential customers in the Bourbon, Branson and Columbia exchanges. Staff is also currently unable to confirm that a wireline competitor is providing local voice service to business customers in the Dardenne exchange. At this time, the Staff objects to a competitive classification for residential services in the Bourbon, Branson and Columbia exchanges and

business services in the Dardenne exchange. The Staff is continuing its investigation and will amend its recommendation if it is able to confirm that a wireline competitor is providing local voice service to the relevant customers in these exchange.

5. The Staff is concurrently filing its testimony to explain its recommendations to the Commission to grant 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; and its recommendations to deny competitive classification in the remaining exchanges. Schedule 1 to the Direct Testimony of John Van Eschen summarizes Staff's current position regarding CenturyTel's request, and is appended to this document as a point of reference.

WHEREFORE, the Staff requests the Commission to grant, in part, and to deny, in part, CenturyTel's application.

Respectfully submitted,

DANA K. JOYCE
General Counsel

/s/ David A. Meyer

David A. Meyer
Senior Counsel
Missouri Bar No. 46620

Attorney for the Staff of the
Missouri Public Service Commission
P. O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-8701 (Telephone)
(573) 751-9285 (Fax)
david.meyer@psc.mo.gov

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 20th day of September 2005.

/s/ David A. Meyer

**CenturyTel's Request for Competitive Status
Residential**

Exchange ¹	Meet Competitive Criteria?		Local Voice Competitor(s) ²
	Yes	No	
Bourbon		X (Fidelity II)	*
Branson		X (CD Telecom)	*
Columbia		X (Socket)	*
Dardenne	X		Charter
O'Fallon	X		Charter
St. Peters	X		Charter
Wentzville	X		Charter

Business

Exchange ¹	Meet Competitive Criteria?		Local Voice Competitor(s) ²
	Yes	No	
Bourbon	X		Fidelity II
Columbia	X		Socket
Cuba	X		Fidelity II
Dardenne		X (Charter)	*
O'Fallon	X		AT&T
St. James	X		Fidelity II
St. Peters	X		AT&T
Wentzville	X		AT&T

- * Staff has been unable to verify from independent evidence that a qualifying provider is providing local voice service within the exchange using facilities in which it or one of its affiliates have an ownership interest.

¹ Exchanges listed in bold type indicates Staff's opinion the exchange qualifies for competitive status as requested by the company.

² Identified wireline companies are providing local voice service in the exchange on a full facility basis.