BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Investigation into the) Earnings of Cass County Telephone) Company)

Case No. IR-2006-0374

STAFF RESPONSE TO AT&T MISSOURI'S <u>APPLICATION TO INTERVENE</u>

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

1. On March 30, 2006, the Staff of the Public Service Commission; Cass County Telephone Company, Limited Partnership; Local Exchange Company, LLC; FairPoint Communications, Inc.; FairPoint Communications Missouri, Inc.; and the Office of the Public Counsel filed a Stipulation and Agreement designed to resolve Staff's investigation into the earnings of Cass County Telephone Company. On April 24, AT&T Missouri applied to intervene. The Commission directed that any party wishing to respond to AT&T Missouri's application to intervene shall do so no later than May 2, 2006.

2. The Staff does not object to AT&T Missouri's intervention in this case. The parties to the stipulation are planning to meet with AT&T Missouri on May 2, 2006, to discuss its concerns. Following that meeting and any follow-up discussions, the Staff intends to file a response addressing the substance of AT&T Missouri's concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

<u>/s/ William K. Haas</u>

William K. Haas Deputy General Counsel Missouri Bar No. 28701

Attorney for the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission P. O. Box 360 Jefferson City, MO 65102 (573) 751-7510 (Telephone) (573) 751-9285 (Fax) william.haas@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 2^{nd} day of May 2006.

/s/ William K. Haas