

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

In the Matter of the Application of Windstream)	
Missouri, Inc. for Approval of Interconnection)	<u>File No. IK-2016-0025</u>
Agreement with Big River Telephone Company, LLC)	

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

1. On August 3, 2015, Windstream Missouri, Inc. ("the Company") filed an application with the Commission for approval of a negotiated Interconnection Agreement with Big River Telephone Company, LLC ("Big River"), under the provisions of the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. The Company states that the agreement complies with Section 252(e) of the Act in that it is consistent with public interest, convenience and necessity, and not discriminatory to nonparty carriers. The Company is certificated with the Commission as an Incumbent Local Exchange Telecommunications Company; Big River is certificated with the Commission as a Local and Interexchange Telecommunications Company.

2. 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 herein states that the 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 Agreement was filed with the Application.

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

Respectfully submitted,



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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 this 6th day of August, 2015.

