

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application for Approval of an)
Interconnection Agreement between McDonald) **File No. IK-2021-0402**
County Telephone Company and Teleport)
Communications America, LLC)

ORDER APPROVING INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT

Issue Date: June 29, 2021

Effective Date: July 29, 2021

This order approves an Interconnection Agreement between the parties filed by McDonald County Telephone Company.

On May 20, 2021, McDonald County Telephone Company filed an application with the Commission for approval of an adoption of the Interconnection Agreement between itself and Teleport Communications America, LLC (Teleport Communications America) under the provisions of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. McDonald County Telephone Company is certificated with the Commission as an incumbent local exchange carrier. Teleport Communications America is certificated with the Commission as a competitive local exchange and interexchange carrier.

Although Teleport Communications America is a party to the Agreement, it did not join in the application. On May 27, 2021, the Commission issued an order making Teleport Communications America a party in this case and directing any party wishing to request a hearing to do so no later than June 11, 2021. No requests for hearing were filed.

Under Section 252(e) of the Act, any Interconnection Agreement adopted by negotiation must be submitted to the Commission for approval. The Commission may

reject an Agreement if it finds that the Agreement is discriminatory or that it is not consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity.

On June 25, 2021, the Staff of the Commission filed a recommendation. Staff recommends that the Agreement be approved and notes that the Agreement meets the limited requirements of the Act in that it is not discriminatory toward nonparties and is not against the public interest.

The Commission has considered the application, the supporting documentation, and Staff's recommendation. Based upon that review, the Commission finds that the Agreement meets the requirements of the Act in that it does not discriminate against a nonparty carrier and implementation of the Agreement is not inconsistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity.

The application represents that the applicant has not had contact with the office of the Commission about any substantive issue connected to the filing within 60 days before filing the application. On the basis of that representation, for good cause shown, the Commission will waive application of the pre-filing notice requirements of Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1).

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The Interconnection Agreement between McDonald County Telephone Company and Teleport Communications America, filed on May 20, 2021, is approved.
2. The pre-filing notice requirements of Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1) are waived.
3. This order shall become effective on July 29, 2021.
4. This file may be closed on July 30, 2021.



BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Morris L. Woodruff".

Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

Morris L. Woodruff, Chief Regulatory Law
Judge, by delegation of authority pursuant
to Section 386.240, RSMo 2016.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 29th day of June, 2021.