

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

In the Matter of the Application for)	
Approval of an Interconnection)	
Agreement between New Florence)	<u>Case No. IK-2022-0113</u>
Telephone Company d/b/a Missouriicom)	
and Teleport Communications)	
America, LLC)	

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

1. On October 25, 2021, New Florence Telephone Company d/b/a Missouriicom (New Florence) filed with the Commission its *Application for Approval of an Interconnection Agreement* between itself and Teleport Communications America, LLC (TCA) under the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act).

2. New Florence is an incumbent local exchange telecommunications company (ILEC) operating in Missouri. It is a Missouri corporation in good standing with the Missouri Secretary of State. Its annual reports and assessments are not overdue.

3. TCA is a competitive local exchange telecommunications company (CLEC) in Missouri. Teleport is an actively-registered foreign limited liability company in good standing with the Missouri Secretary of State. Its annual reports and assessments are not overdue.

4. On November 2, 2021, the Commission issued its *Order Directing Notice Setting Intervention Deadline, and Making Teleport Communications American a Party*. The Commission made TCA a party to the case, issued an intervention deadline of November 17, 2021, and ordered Staff to file a recommendation no later than December 2, 2021.

5. No parties have filed to intervene in this matter.

6. Pursuant to Section 252(e)(2) of the Act, a state commission may reject an interconnection agreement adopted by negotiation only 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.

7. In lieu of a Memorandum, Staff hereby states that the Interconnection Agreement between New Florence and TCA does not discriminate against nonparty telecommunications carriers and its implementation is not inconsistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity. A copy of the Agreement was filed with the Application.

WHEREFORE, Staff recommends the Commission approve the *Application* and grant such other and further relief as the Commission finds appropriate in the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Curt Stokes

Curt Stokes

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**Counsel for Staff of the
Missouri Public Service Commission**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by electronic mail, or First Class United States Postal Mail, postage prepaid, on this 2nd day of December, 2021, to all parties and/or counsels of records.

/s/ Curt Stokes

Curt Stokes