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June 12, 2000

**FILED**<sup>3</sup>

JUN 12 2000

Missouri Public  
Service Commission

TA-2000-815

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts  
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge  
Missouri Public Service Commission  
P.O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

**Re: In the Matter of the Application of CenturyTel Northwest Arkansas, LLC for Designation as a Telecommunications Company Carrier Eligible for Federal Universal Service Support pursuant to Section 254 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.**

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed please find the original plus eight (8) copies of Application for Designation as Eligible Carrier Pursuant to Section 254 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 for filing on behalf of CenturyTel Northwest Arkansas, LLC in the above referenced matter. Please bring this matter to the attention of the appropriate Commission personnel. A copy of this filing is being sent to all parties of record.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

BRYDON, SWEARENGEN & ENGLAND P.C.

By: 

Sondra B. Morgan

SBM/k

Enclosures

cc: Office of Public Counsel  
General Counsel - PSC  
Clay Bailey

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
STATE OF MISSOURI

FILED<sup>3</sup>

JUN 12 2000

Missouri Public  
Service Commission

In the Matter of the Application of )  
CenturyTel Northwest Arkansas, LLC )  
for Designation as a Telecommunications )  
Company Carrier Eligible for Federal Universal )  
Service Support pursuant to § 254 of the )  
Telecommunications Act of 1996. )

Case No. TA-2000-815

APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION AS ELIGIBLE CARRIER  
PURSUANT TO § 254 OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996

Comes now CenturyTel Northwest Arkansas, LLC ("CenturyTel N.W. Ark. " or "Applicant") and pursuant to § 254 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("the Act"), as well as the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") regulations found at 47 CFR 54.201, et seq, issued with the May 7, 1997 Report and Order of the FCC in FCC Docket No. 96-45, and hereby requests that the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") designate it as a telecommunications carrier eligible under the provisions of 47 CFR 54.201(d) to receive federal universal service support.

In support of its Application, Applicant states as follows:

1. On February 1, 2000, CenturyTel N.W. Ark. and GTE Midwest Incorporation ("GTE") filed a Joint Application with the Commission requesting authority for GTE to sell a portion of its Missouri network to CenturyTel N.W. Ark. and seeking certificates of service authority for CenturyTel N.W. Ark. so that it could operate the purchased network. This case was designated TM-2000-471.
2. On May 1, 2000, CenturyTel N.W. Ark. filed tariffs with the Commission with an effective date of June 1, 2000. On May 9, 2000, the company voluntarily extended the effective date of the tariffs to July 1, 2000, as closing on the sale is expected to occur on June

30, 2000. When CenturyTel N.W. Ark. receives the Commission's approval for the transfer of the assets and its certificate of authority, and when its tariffs are approved by the Commission, CenturyTel N.W. Ark. will become a local exchange telecommunications company certified by the Commission to provide basic local telecommunications service in the State of Missouri. CenturyTel N.W. Ark.'s street address and principal place of business is 100 Century Park Drive, Monroe, LA 71203. CenturyTel N.W. Ark. will not maintain an office in Missouri.

2. All correspondence, communications, pleadings, notices, orders and decisions relating to this Application should be addressed to:

W.R. England, III  
Sondra B. Morgan  
Brydon, Swearngen & England P.C.  
312 E. Capitol Avenue  
P.O. Box 456  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
(573) 635-7166  
(573) 635-0427 (fax)

and

Mr. Clay Bailey  
CenturyTel Service Group, LLC  
100 Century Park Drive  
P.O. Box 4065  
Monroe, LA 71211-4065  
(318) 388-9069  
(318) 388-9602 (fax)

3. Section 214(e)(1) of the Act states that a carrier may be designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier and therefore receive universal service support so long as the carrier, throughout its service area: (1) offers the services that are supported by federal

universal service support mechanisms under section 254(c) of the Act; (2) offers such services using its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale of another carrier's services, including the services offered by another eligible telecommunications carrier; and (3) advertises the availability of and charges for such services using media of general distribution. Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations § 54.201(b) states that the Commission shall, on its own motion or upon request, designate a common carrier an "eligible telecommunications carrier" so long as the carrier meets the requirements of 47 CFR 54.201(d). Title 47 CFR § 54.201(c) further states that a state commission shall designate more than one common carrier as an eligible telecommunications carrier for a service area designated by the state commission so long as the additional requesting carrier meets the requirements of § 54.201(d).

4. When CenturyTel N.W. Ark.'s certificates and tariff become effective, it will offer all of the services supported by federal universal service support under § 254(c) of the Act.

Specifically, CenturyTel N.W. Ark. will offer the following services:

- (1) Voice grade access to the public switched network;
- (2) Local usage;
- (3) Dual tone multi-frequency signaling or its functional equivalent;
- (4) Single-party service or its functional equivalent;
- (5) Access to emergency services;
- (6) Access to operator services;
- (7) Access to interexchange service;
- (8) Access to directory assistance; and

(9) Toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers.<sup>1</sup>

5. Applicant will advertise the availability of and charges for such services using media of general distribution within its service area.

6. Applicant acknowledges that 47 CFR 54.405 requires all eligible telecommunications carriers to make Lifeline services (as defined in 47 CFR 54.401) available to qualifying low-income consumers. Pursuant to its tariff filed with the Commission, Lifeline services will be available to qualifying low-income consumers in its service area.

WHEREFORE, on the basis of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the Commission designate it as a telecommunications carrier eligible under the provisions of 47 CFR 54.201(d) to receive federal universal service support such designation and order to be effective at the time its tariff for service is approved and it takes over the operation of the Missouri facilities and for such other orders as are deemed necessary or convenient in this matter.

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<sup>1</sup>On December 30, 1997, the FCC changed its definition of toll-limitation services in its Fourth Order on Reconsideration of the Universal Service Report and Order, CC Docket Nos. 96-45 et al. The FCC stated, "we define toll-limitation services as either toll blocking or toll control and require telecommunications carriers to offer only one, and not necessarily both, of those services at this time in order to be designated as eligible telecommunications carriers." Id. at 2103. CenturyTel N.W. Ark. N.W. Ark. will offer toll blocking service to qualifying customers.

Respectfully submitted,

Sondra B. Morgan

W.R. England, III

#23975

Sondra B. Morgan

#35482

BRYDON, SWEARENGEN & ENGLAND P.C.

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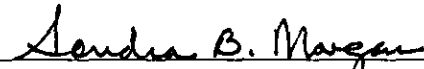
Attorneys for CenturyTel Northwest  
Arkansas, LLC

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document was mailed or hand-delivered on June 12, 2000 to:

Office of Public Counsel  
Truman State Office Center  
P.O. Box 7800  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Legal Counsel  
Public Service Commission  
P.O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sondra B. Morgan

VERIFICATION

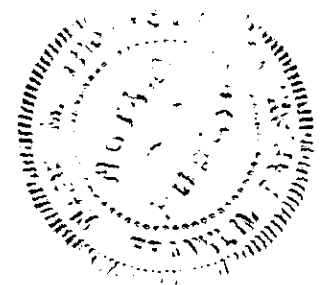
STATE OF LOUISIANA )  
 ) ss  
PARISH OF )  
  
OUACHITA

G. Clay Bailey, having been duly sworn upon his oath, states that he is Vice President and Treasurer of CenturyTel Northwest Arkansas, LLC, the Applicant herein, and as such, duly authorized by the Applicant to execute the foregoing Application and to make the Affidavit on its behalf, and the matters and things stated in the foregoing Application and Appendices thereto are true and correct to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.

*G. Clay Bailey*

Name G. Clay Bailey  
Title Vice President and Treasurer  
Address 100 Century Park Drive  
Monroe LA 71203

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a Notary Public, on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2000.



*Wade M. Meyer*  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: @ Death