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

In the Matter of the Joint Application of)
GTE Arkansas Incorporated and CenturyTel of)
Northwest Arkansas LLC for Authority to)
Transfer and Acquire Part of GTE Arkansas)
Incorporated's Franchise, Facilities or) Case No. TM-2000-471
System Located in the State of Missouri)
and for Issuance of Certificates of Service)
Authority to CenturyTel of Northwest)
Arkansas LLC.)

ORDER DIRECTING NOTICE

On February 1, 2000, GTE Arkansas Incorporated (GTE) and CenturyTel of Northwest Arkansas LLC (CenturyTel) filed a joint application seeking authority for GTE to sell a portion of its Missouri network to CenturyTel, and seeking certificates of service authority for CenturyTel so that it can operate the proposed network. If the joint application is approved, GTE will no longer be responsible for providing basic local and interexchange telecommunications services in the affected exchanges, and CenturyTel will assume that responsibility. According to the joint application, the exchanges affected are Pea Ridge and Seligman.

The Commission finds that proper persons should be given notice and an opportunity to intervene. On February 15, 2000, the Commission issued a Schedule of Applicants for Basic Local and Nonswitched Local Exchange and Schedule of Applicants for Interexchange and Nonswitched Local Exchange Service Authority. This

notice provided that interested parties may file an application to intervene no later than March 16, 2000. In addition to that previous notice, the Records Department of the Commission shall send a copy of this order to the county clerk of each Missouri county containing all or part of any affected exchange, and to all basic local and interexchange telecommunications companies in Missouri. The Public Information Officer of the Commission shall give notice of this application to every newspaper serving the affected counties, as listed in the newspaper directory of the current Official Manual of the State of Missouri, and to the members of the Missouri General Assembly representing persons residing within those affected exchanges. Proper persons wishing to intervene shall file an application to intervene with the Secretary of the Missouri Public Service Commission. Copies of the application to intervene should be sent to the parties listed below. :

The requirement of a hearing is met when an opportunity to be heard has been provided and no proper party has requested the opportunity to present evidence. State ex rel Rex Deffenderfer Enterprises, Inc. v. Public Service Commission, 776 S.W.2d, 494, 496 (Mo. App. 1989). If there are no requests for a hearing, the requested relief may be granted based on the verified application.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the Records Department of the Commission shall send a copy of this order to the county clerk of each Missouri county containing all or a part of any affected exchange, and to every tele-

communications carrier certified to provide basic local or inter-exchange telecommunications services in the State of Missouri.

2. That the Public Information Officer of the Commission shall give notice of this application to every newspaper serving each county affected by the application, as listed in the newspaper directory of the current Official Manual of the State of Missouri, and to the members of the Missouri General Assembly representing persons residing within the affected exchanges.

3. That any party wishing to intervene, request a hearing, or to file comments in this matter shall file an application, or shall file their written comments, no later than March 16, 2000, with:

Dale Hardy Roberts, Secretary
Missouri Public Service Commission
Post Office Box 360
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

and send copies to:

Byron E. Francis, Esq.
Armstrong Teasdale
One Metropolitan Square
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740

W.R. England, III, Esq.
Sondra B. Morgan
Brydon, Swearngen & England P.C.
312 East Capitol Avenue
Post Office Box 456
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

and

Office of the Public Counsel
Post Office Box 7800
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

4. That this order shall become effective on February 29,
2000.

BY THE COMMISSION



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Vicky Ruth, Regulatory Law Judge,
by delegation of authority pursuant
to 4 CSR 240-2.120(1) (November 30,
1995) and Section 386.240, RSMo 1994.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 16th day of February, 2000.