BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION STATE OF MISSOURI

In the matter of the Joint Application of New Florence Telephone Company, Tiger Telephone, Inc. and Direct Communications Rockland, Inc. for an order authorizing Direct Communications Rockland, Inc. to purchase or acquire, take or hold all of the issued and outstanding capital stock of Tiger Telephone, Inc.

Case No. TO-2007-0139

RESPONSE TO ORDER DIRECTING FILING

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Come now New Florence Telephone Company ("New Florence"), Tiger Telephone, Inc. ("TigerTel") and Direct Communications Rockland, Inc. and the individuals designated by Direct, ("DCR") (collectively referred to as "Joint Applicants"), and for their Response to Order Directing Filing state to the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") as follows:

1. On March 13, 2007, the Commission issued an Order Directing Filing in which it directed the Joint Applicants to explain why TigerTel is the proposed borrower for the purchase of the stock of TigerTel. The Commission requested that the Joint Applicants further explain the transaction.

2. As the transaction now stands before the Commission after the two amendments to the Joint Application, Robert D. Williams is the sole shareholder of the stock of TigerTel, and DCR, as contemplated by the Stock Purchase Agreement, has designated six (6) individuals who will be the actual purchasers of the TigerTel stock. These individual purchasers will use their own funds to purchase approximately twenty-five percent of the stock of TigerTel. TigerTel will purchase the remaining shares of stock using the borrowed money, and those shares will be held

as treasury stock.

3. The lender, Zions Bank, required that the loan be made to TigerTel and that it be secured by the stock and assets of TigerTel, including the stock of New Florence Telephone held by TigerTel. Since TigerTel is the borrower, the lender will be able to impose and monitor financial ratios on TigerTel rather than on the individual shareholders.

WHEREFORE, Joint Applicants respectfully request that the Commission accept its Response to the Order Directing Filing and grant the relief previously requested in the Joint Application, the first Amended and Supplemental Application and the Second Amended Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attorneys for Tiger Telephone, Inc., New Florence Telephone Company and Direct Communications Rockland, Inc.

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document was sent electronically, hand-delivered or mailed, United States Mail, postage prepaid, this <u>15</u> day of March, 2007, to:

Michael Dandino Senior Counsel Office of Public Counsel P. O. Box 7800 Jefferson City, MO 65102 Robert Franson Senior Counsel Missouri Public Service Commission P. O. Box 360 Jefferson City, MO 65102

W. R. England III/Sondra B. Morgan