C SERVICE COMMISSION
BOX 360 SERVICE MO 65102



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**FILED** 

FEB 2 3 2004

Missouri Public Service Commission Total-Tel USA Comm., Inc. C/O David Vorbeck 1102/Grand Blvd, Ste 1400 Kansas City, MO 64106

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SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	7C-04-0363 complete this section on del	IVERY
Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired.  Print your name and address on the reverse	A. Signature	☐ Agent ☐ Addressee
so that we can return the card to you.  Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.	B. Received by (Printed Name)	C. Date of Delivery
1. Article Addressed to:	D. Is delivery address different from iter     If YES, enter delivery address below	1
Total-Tel USA Comm., Inc.		
1102 Grand Blvd, Ste 1400 Kansas City, MO 64106	3. Service Type   ☐ Certified Mail ☐ Express Mail ☐ Registered ☐ Return Record ☐ Insured Mail ☐ C.O.D.	il eipt for Merchandise
	4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee)	☐ Yes
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a. Check all that apply in section 3.     b. Sign in section 2 below,     c. Leave this notice where the carrier can see it.	GPO CARRIERS-USPS 315 W PERSHING RD - ZIPS 64105/06/08 CERTIFIED,INSURED,PARCEL PICK-UP MOWU - MON - FRI 8AM - 8PM SAT 8AM-3PM												
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# OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

The Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission,	)
Complainant,	)
V.	Case No. TC-2004-0363
Total-Tel USA Communications, Inc.,	) }
Respondent.	) )

# NOTICE OF COMPLAINT

Total-Tel USA Communications, Inc. 1720 Windward Concourse, Suite 250 Alpharetta, Georgia 30005 CERTIFIED MAIL

Total-Tel USA Communications, Inc. c/o David A. Vorbeck, Registered Agent 1102 Grand Boulevard, Suite 1400 Kansas City, Missouri 64106 CERTIFIED MAIL

On February 6, 2004, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission filed a complaint with the Commission against Total-Tel USA Communications, Inc. A copy of the complaint is enclosed. Under Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.070, Total-Tel USA Communications has 30 days from the date of this notice to file an answer or to file notification that the complaint has been satisfied. Total-Tel USA Communications, Inc. is reminded that, as a corporation, it cannot appear before the Commission unless it is represented by an attorney licensed to practice law in Missouri. Therefore, its answer must be signed by a Missouri attorney.

All pleadings must be mailed to:

Secretary of the Public Service Commission P.O. Box 360 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0360 A copy must be served upon the Staff of the Commission at the address listed within the enclosed complaint.

BY THE COMMISSION

Hale Hardy Roberts

Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(SEAL)

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri, on this 11th day of February, 2004.

Dippell, Senior Regulatory Law Judge

# BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

The Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission,	)
Commission,	)
Complainant,	ý
v.	) Case No. TC-2004
Total-Tel USA Communications, Inc.,	,
Respondent.	) ) )

# **COMPLAINT**

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Staff") and initiates its complaint pursuant to Section 386.390 and 4 CSR 240-2.070, against Total-Tel USA Communications, Inc. (the "Company") for violation of the Commission's statutes and rules relating to annual report filings. In support of its complaint, Staff respectfully states as follows:

#### GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

1. Respondent Total-Tel USA Communications, Inc. is a "telecommunications company" and "public utility" as defined in Section 386.020 RSMo (2000) and is subject to the jurisdiction of the Missouri Public Service Commission pursuant to Section 386.250. The Commission granted the Company a certificate of service authority to provide intrastate interexchange telecommunications services in Case No. TA-94-370 on September 7, 1994. Total-Tel USA Communications, Inc. has provided the following contact information to the Commission:

Total-Tel USA Communications, Inc. 1720 Windward Concourse, Suite 250 Alpharetta, GA 30005

Total-Tel USA Communications, Inc.'s registered agent, according to the records of the Missouri Secretary of State's Office, is:

David A. Vorbeck 1102 Grand Blvd., Suite 1400 Kansas City, MO 64106

- 2. Section 386.390.1 authorizes the Commission to entertain a complaint "setting forth any act or thing done or omitted to be done by a public utility in violation of any law, or of any rule, order or decision" of the Commission.
- 3. Commission practice Rule 4 CSR 240-2.070(1) provides that the Commission's Staff, through the General Counsel, may file a complaint.
- 4. The Missouri courts have imposed a duty upon the Public Service Commission to first determine matters within its jurisdiction before proceeding to those courts. As a result, "[t]he courts have ruled that the Division cannot act only on the information of its staff to authorize the filing of a penalty action in circuit court; it can authorize a penalty action only after a contested hearing." State ex rel. Sure-Way Transp., Inc. v. Division of Transp., Dept. of Economic Development, State of Mo., 836 S.W.2d 23, 27 (Mo.App. W.D. 1992) (relying on State v. Carroll, 620 S.W.2d 22 (Mo. App. 1981); see also State ex rel. Circse v. Ridge, 138 S.W.2d 1012 (Mo.banc 1940). If the Commission determines after a contested hearing that the Company failed, omitted, or neglected to file its annual report and/or pay its annual assessment, the Commission may then authorize its General Counsel to bring a penalty action in the circuit court as provided in Section 386.600.

#### COUNT ONE

5. Section 392.210.1 states that telecommunications companies must "file an annual report with the Commission at a time and covering the yearly period fixed by the commission."

- 6. Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-3.540(1) requires all telecommunications companies to file their annual reports on or before April 15 of each year.
- 7. On February 3, 2003, the Executive Director of the Commission sent all regulated utilities, including Total-Tel USA Communications, Inc., a letter notifying them of the requirement to file an annual report covering the calendar year 2002, together with the appropriate form for the Company to complete and return to the Commission and instructions on how the Company may complete its filing electronically. The letter was sent to the address that was current in the Commission's Electronic Filing and Information System ("EFIS") at that time, and the letter was not returned.
- 8. The Company never returned a completed form, nor did it file its annual report electronically; and as of the date of this pleading, has not filed its 2002 Annual Report. See Affidavit of Janis Fischer, attached to this Complaint as Exhibit A.
- 9. Staff sent the Company a letter on or about August 22, 2003 to an address that the Company had provided and that was contained in the EFIS system, informing the Company it had failed to comply with the statutory requirement to file its annual report for 2002 and notifying it of the location where the Commission's form is available. Staff has received no response, and the letter was not returned.
- 10. Section 392.210.1 provides that "[i]f any telecommunications company shall fail to make and file its annual report as and when required or within such extended time as the commission may allow, such company shall forfeit to the state the sum of one hundred dollars for each and every day it shall continue to be in default with respect to such report...."

#### COUNT TWO

- against the wishes of the certificate holder. State ex rel. City of Sikeston v. Public Serv. Comm'n, 82 S.W. 2d 105, 109 (Mo. 1935). Thus, the Commission has the authority to cancel a telecommunications company certificate pursuant to Section 392.410.5, which provides that "[a]ny certificate of service authority may be altered or modified by the commission after notice and hearing, upon its own motion or upon application of the person or company affected." However, the Commission need not hold a hearing, if, after proper notice and opportunity to intervene, no party requests such a hearing. State ex rel. Rex Deffenderfer Enterprises, Inc. v. Public Serv. Comm'n, 776 S.W.2d 494 (Mo.App.W.D. 1989).
- 12. If the Company fails to respond to this Complaint in a timely manner as required by 4 CSR 240-2.070(8), Staff requests that the Commission find that the Company's default constitutes its consent for the Commission to cancel its certificate and tariff, and therefore cancel the certificates of service authority of Total-Tel USA Communications, Inc. to provide intrastate interexchange telecommunications services and the accompanying tariff, P.S.C. Mo. Tariff No. 1.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Staff now requests that the Commission open a complaint case pursuant to Section 386.390; and, after hearing, find that Total-Tel USA Communications, Inc. failed, omitted, or neglected to file its 2002 Annual Report with the Commission as required by Missouri statute and Commission orders; authorize its General Counsel to bring a penalty action against the Company in the circuit court as provided in Section 386.600, based on the statutory penalties set forth in Section 392.210.1 (for failing to file annual reports).

Moreover, if the Company fails to respond to this Complaint in a timely manner as required by 4 CSR 240-2.070(8), in addition to a finding in default under 4 CSR 240-2.070(9), Staff requests that the Commission find that the Company's default constitutes its consent for the Commission to cancel its certificate and tariff, and therefore cancel the certificate of service authority of Total-Tel USA Communications, Inc. to provide intrastate interexchange telecommunications services and the accompanying tariff, P.S.C. Mo. Tariff No. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

DANA K. JOYCE General Counsel

## /s/ Bruce H. Bates

Bruce H. Bates Associate General Counsel Missouri Bar No. 35442

Attorney for the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-7434 (Telephone)
(573) 751-9285 (Fax)
bruce.bates@psc.mo.gov (E-Mail)

#### Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile or electronically mailed to all counsel of record this 6<sup>th</sup> day of February 2004.

/s/ Bruce H. Bates

Total-Tel USA Communications, Inc. 1720 Windward Concourse, Suite 250 Alpharetta, GA 30005

David A. Vorbeck (Registered Agent) 1102 Grand Blvd., Suite 1400 Kansas City, MO 64106

John Coffman, Esq.
Office of the Public Counsel
P. O. Box 7800
Jefferson City, MO 65102

#### AFFIDAVIT

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I. Janis E. Fischer, Utility Regulatory Auditor IV, of the Commission's Auditing Department, first being duly sworn on my oath state that the Public Service Commission's records do not reflect the receipt of the 2002 Annual Report from Total-Tel USA Communications, Inc.

Janis E. Fischer

Subscribed and swom to before me this bay of February, 2004.

DSUZIE MANKIN
NOTATY PUBLIE - NOTATY SEAL
STATE OF MISSOURI
COLE COUNTY
MY COMMISSION EXP. JUNE 21,204

NOTARY PUBLIC

# STATE OF MISSOURI

## OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City,

Missouri, this  $\underline{11}^{th}$  day of Feb. 2004.

**Dale Hardy Roberts** 

Hole Hoed Roberts

Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

# MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION February 11, 2004

Case No. TC-2004-0363

Dana K Joyce P.O. Box 360 200 Madison Street, Suite 800 Jefferson City, MO 65102

John B Coffman P.O. Box 7800 200 Madison Street, Suite 640 Jefferson City, MO 65102

Total-Tel USA Comm., Inc. Official Representative 1720 Windward Concourse, Ste 250

Total-Tel USA Communications, Inc. c/o David Vorbeck 1102 Grand Blvd,

Alpharetta, GA 30005

Ste 1400

Kansas City, MO 64106

Enclosed find a certified copy of a NOTICE in the above-numbered case(s).

Dale Hardy Reberts

Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge