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

In the Matter of the Application of Easy Telephone ) Service Company for Designation as an ) Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the ) State of Missouri )

File No. TA-2011-0164

## **STAFF RESPONSE**

COMES Now the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission and for its response, states as follows:

1. On March 9, 2011, the Staff filed a Response to the request of Easy Telephone Service Company ("the Company"), to unredact all or portions of an e-mail the Staff received from Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC").

2. On March 10, 2011, the Commission ordered the Staff to further explain its reasons for treating as confidential the names and allegations contained in the e-mail addition, as Tanea Foglia at USAC states that the whistleblower is "happy to provide more information and does not wish to remain anonymous."

3. As the Staff noted in its prior pleading, USAC's Whistleblower Alert system allows a person to remain anonymous, or allows them to choose to identify themselves so that USAC can contact the whistleblower for additional information, but that USAC will "make every effort to maintain confidentiality." Staff's reading of those provisions means that opting out of anonymity is a far cry means opting out of confidential treatment altogether.

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4. However, the issue of unredaction of the e-mail appears to be moot, as the Company has discerned the identity and company of the whistleblower and responded with extensive documentation that the Staff is presently reviewing.

5. The Staff understands that the Company is anxious to have this matter resolved and for the Staff to reinstate its recommendation that the Company be granted ETC status. The Staff is, in good faith, reviewing the documentation as expeditiously as possible and will file its recommendation as soon as possible. The Staff asks the Commission to grant it until April 1 to make its filing. If the review is concluded earlier, the Staff will file its recommendation at that time. If the review cannot be completed in that time, the Staff will request an extension, providing good cause why such an extension should be granted

WHEREFORE, the Staff requests that the Commission establish a deadline of April 1, 2011 for the Staff to file its recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

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## **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 11<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2011.

