



On the 26th day of December, 2006, after good faith negotiations, the Company and Nextel executed an Interconnection and Reciprocal Compensation Agreement (“the Agreement”) for the State of Missouri pursuant to the terms of the Federal Act (*see* Agreement, Attachment II). Pursuant to the Act, the Company hereby submits this Agreement for approval by the Commission. The Agreement complies fully with Section 252(e) of the Federal Act because the Agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity and does not discriminate against any telecommunications carrier. The Agreement consists of twenty-nine (29) pages that include two (2) Appendices. There are no outstanding issues between the Company and Nextel that need the assistance of mediation or arbitration.

## **II. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL**

The Company seeks the Commission’s approval of the Agreement, consistent with the provisions of the Federal Act and Missouri law. The Company represents that the implementation of this negotiated and executed Agreement complies fully with both Missouri law and Section 252(e) of the Federal Act because the Agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity and does not discriminate against any telecommunications carrier. The Company respectfully requests that the Commission grant expeditious approval of this Agreement, without change, suspension or delay in its implementation. This is a bilateral agreement, reached as a result of negotiations and compromise between the parties. Correspondence, orders and decisions in this matter should be addressed to:

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### III. COMMISSION AUTHORITY

Under the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (“the Act”), the Commission has the authority to grant the relief requested by the Company. Specifically, Section 252(a) of the Act provides:

**(a) AGREEMENTS ARRIVED AT THROUGH NEGOTIATION**

- (1) **VOLUNTARY NEGOTIATIONS.** -- Upon receiving a request for interconnection, services, or network elements pursuant to section 251, an incumbent local exchange carrier may negotiate and enter into a binding agreement with the requesting telecommunications carrier or carriers without regard to the standards set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 251. The agreement shall include a detailed schedule of itemized charges for interconnection and each service or network element included in the agreement. The agreement, including any interconnection agreement negotiated before the date of enactment of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, shall be submitted to the State commission under subsection (e) of this section.

#### IV. STANDARD OF REVIEW

Under Section 252 of the Act, the Commission has the authority to approve an agreement negotiated between an incumbent local exchange company (ILEC) and other telecommunications carriers. The Commission may only reject an agreement if the agreement is discriminatory to a nonparty or is inconsistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity. Section 252(e)(2) of the Act provides as follows:

**GROUND FOR REJECTION.**-- The State Commission may only reject --

- (A) an agreement (or any portion thereof) adopted by negotiation under subsection (a) if it finds that --
  - (i) the agreement (or portion thereof) discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement; or
  - (ii) the implementation of such agreement or portion is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity;

The affidavit of Don Santhuff, General Manager of Steelville Telephone Exchange, Inc., establishes that the Agreement satisfies these standards. (Affidavit, Attachment I)

#### IV. EXEMPTIONS

Section 251(f)(1) of the Act exempts certain rural telephone companies from the additional interconnection requirements contained in Section 251(c). Thus, although all ILECs, as telecommunications carriers, have the duty to interconnect, not all ILECs have to meet the additional interconnection requirements imposed by Section 251(c) of the Act.<sup>1</sup> As a rural carrier, the

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<sup>1</sup> Section 21.1 of the Agreement states: "This Agreement is not an interconnection agreement under 47 U.S.C. 251(c), but rather a reciprocal compensation agreement under 47 U.S.C. 251(b)(5). The Parties acknowledge that ILEC may be entitled to a rural exemption as provided by 47 U.S.C. 251(f), and ILEC does not waive such exemption by entering into this Agreement."

Company is not required to meet the additional interconnection requirements of Section 251(c). The Parties sought to highlight in Section 21.1 of the Agreement that, while they are submitting an Interconnection and Reciprocal Compensation Agreement pursuant to Section 251(b)(5) to this Commission for approval, it is not an interconnection agreement under Section 251(c), and the Company has not waived its Section 251(f)(1) rural exemption.

**V. CONCLUSION**

WHEREFORE, the Company respectfully requests the Commission to issue an Order that: (1) approves expeditiously the Agreement between the Company and Nextel, and (2) grants such other relief as is reasonable in the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

By /s/ W.R. England, III  
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document this 2nd day of January, 2007, to the following parties:

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