

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

Staff of the Public Service Commission of the)	
State of Missouri,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	Case No. TC-2006-0184
)	
New Florence Telephone Company,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

STAFF’S STATUS REPORT

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Staff”), in response to the Commission’s April 28, 2006 Order Directing Filing of Status Report, and states:

1. On April 28, 2006 the Commission issued an order in which it ordered the Staff to “file a status report by May 2, 2006, advising of the status of the case.” In the body of the order the Commission also indicated it wished to know “whether a hearing is to be had on May 10 and 11.”

2. The parties have continued settlement discussions since the Commission suspended the procedural schedule in this case on March 28, 2006 in response to the parties’ joint motion to suspend the schedule based on their representations “Settlement discussions have progressed to the point that both parties believe that they hold promise for the submission of a comprehensive settlement to the Commission for its consideration.”

3. The parties have reached an agreement in principle, have agreed to substantially all the wording of a settlement agreement, and are in the process of finalizing the agreement. The parties anticipate it may take a few days to obtain all signatures, and they anticipate filing a

comprehensive agreement that addresses issues beyond those raised in the Staff's complaint by May 12, 2006.

4. In light of the impending comprehensive settlement, the Staff anticipates the Commission will, after the agreement is filed, establish a period for interested parties to seek to intervene.

5. Due to the May 12, 2006 date by which the Staff expects the agreement will be filed and the Staff's anticipation the Commission will establish a subsequent reasonable intervention period, the Staff anticipates the Commission will not hold a hearing on May 10 or 11, 2006.

WHEREFORE, the Staff submits the foregoing as its report of the status of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Nathan Williams

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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 2nd day of May 2006.

/s/ Nathan Williams

Nathan Williams