

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

In the Matter of the Application of TCG St. Louis to)	
Expand Its Certificate of Basic Local Exchange)	<u>File No. CO-2013-0023</u>
Telecommunications Service Authority)	

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Staff”) and for its recommendation, states as follows:

1. On January 25, 2010, TCG St. Louis (“the Company”) filed its Application in this case. It seeks to expand its basic local telecommunications authority to include the Missouri exchanges of Aurora, Ava, Branson, Buffalo, Cameron, Cassville, Columbia, Cuba, Foristell, Forsyth, Houston, Kimberling City, Macon, Marshfield, Mountain Grove, Mountain View, Ozark, Potosi, Reeds Spring, Shell Knob, St. James, Thayer, Troy, Warrenton, and West Plains and to classify the company and its services in those exchanges as competitive.

2. In the attached Memorandum, the Staff recommends that the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Commission”) grant the Company’s request to expand its basic local telecommunications authority. The Commission shall grant an application for a certificate of telecommunications service authority upon a finding that the grant of authority is in the public interest. §§ 392.430 and 392.440 RSMo 2000.

3. Staff also recommends that the Commission classify the Company’s newly extended services as competitive. The Commission may classify a telecommunications provider or its services as competitive if the Commission determines it is subject to sufficient competition to justify a lesser degree of regulation and that such lesser regulation is consistent with the protection of ratepayers and promotes public

interest. §392.361.4 RSMo Supp. 2009. A majority of the services a competitive company provides must be classified as competitive. §392.361.3 RSMo Supp. 2009.

4. The Staff further recommends that the Commission state in its Order that, pursuant to § 392.410 RSMo 2000, the authority conferred by the certificate of service authority shall be null and void unless it is exercised within one year of its issuance.

5. The Company is not delinquent in filing an annual report, paying the PSC assessment, MoUSF, and Relay Missouri.

6. The Staff recommends that the application be granted with the following conditions:

- a. The applicant's originating and terminating access rates shall not exceed the access rates of the incumbent local exchange company against whom the applicant is competing pursuant to Sections 392.361.6 and 392.370 RSMo.
- b. If the directly competing ILEC, in whose service area the applicant is operating, decreases its originating and/or terminating access service rates, the applicant shall file an appropriate tariff amendment to reduce its originating and/or terminating access rates in the directly competing ILEC's service area within 30 days of the directly competing ILEC's reduction of its originating and/or terminating access rates in order to maintain the cap.
- c. The applicant will undertake all necessary measures to ensure its contracts with underlying carriers do not contain provisions preventing delivery of traffic to any telephone exchange area of Missouri. Such measures include but are not limited to:
 - 1) Prevention of call blocking and/or call gapping based on the cost of traffic termination,
 - 2) Preventing the alteration or stripping of Calling Party Number identification, and
 - 3) Ensuring sufficient network capacity exists to process all traffic according to industry accepted practices.

WHEREFORE, Staff recommends that the Commission grant TCG St. Louis's Application to expand its basic local telecommunications authority to include the listed Missouri exchanges and to classify the company and its services in those exchanges as competitive.

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 24th day of August, 2012.



MEMORANDUM

To: Missouri Public Service Commission Official Case File
Case No: CO-2013-0023
Applicant: TCG St. Louis

From: Kari Salsman
Telecommunications Unit

William Voight 8-20-12
Tariff, Safety, Economic and Engineering Analysis/Date

Subject: Staff Recommendation for Approval to Expand Service Area

Date: 8-20-12
Filing Deadline: 8-30-12

The Telecommunications Department Staff (Staff) recommends the applicant be granted the following certificate(s), as indicated below, to be effective on the same date the tariff becomes effective:

☒ certificate to provide basic local exchange telecommunications services in the following service areas.

- ☐ All of AT&T Missouri
- ☐ All of CenturyLink
- ☐ All of Spectra
- ☐ Statewide

☒ The additional exchanges of Aurora, Ava, Branson, Buffalo, Cameron, Cassville, Columbia, Cuba, Foristell, Forsyth, Houston, Kimberling City, Macon, Marshfield, Mountain Grove, Mountain View, Ozark, Potosi, Reeds Spring, Shell Knob, St. James, Thayer, Troy, Warrenton, and West Plains.

☐ certificate to provide interexchange telecommunications services.

☐ certificate to provide local exchange telecommunications services.*

*local exchange authority should be restricted to dedicated, private line services.

Staff recommends the applicant and its services receive competitive classification. Staff further recommends a Commission order granting certification state that pursuant to Section 392.410 RSMo, unless exercised within a period of one year from the issuance thereof, authority conferred by a certificate of service authority shall be null and void. In addition, Staff recommends approval of the waivers listed in the Notice.

Granting a certificate to provide basic local exchange telecommunications services should be based on the following two conditions:

1. The applicant's originating and terminating access rates shall not exceed the access rates of the incumbent local exchange company against whom the applicant is competing pursuant to Sections 392.361.6 and 392.370 RSMo.
2. If the directly competing ILEC, in whose service area the applicant is operating, decreases its originating and/or terminating access service rates, the applicant shall file an appropriate tariff amendment to reduce its originating and/or terminating access rates in the directly competing ILEC's service area within 30 days of the directly competing ILEC's reduction of its originating and/or terminating access rates in order to maintain the cap.

☐ No objection to tariff MO PSC No. ## taking effect. Effective Date: ###
The Staff states that the tariff meets the requirements of all applicable statutes, specifically, one or more of the following: Sections 392.200(8), (12); 392.455(3), (4); and 392.500(2) RSMo. In addition, the tariff filing does not conflict with the following Commission rules: 4 CSR 240-3.545 (4), (6), (7), (8 C,G,H), (9), (15), (16), (19); 4 CSR 240-31.065(1), (2), (3); 4 CSR 240-32.150(5), 32.160(1), (2), 32.190; 4 CSR 240-33.040(4), 33.045(2), 33.050(4) and 33.070(2).

☒ Tariff was not submitted with application. Pursuant to 4 CSR 240-3.510(1)(C), the applicant cannot lawfully provide service until tariffs are effective.

Additional Comments:

☒ The Company is not delinquent in filing an annual report, paying the PSC assessment, MoUSF, and Relay Missouri.

☐ The Company is delinquent. Staff recommends the Commission grant the requested relief/action on the condition the applicant corrects the delinquency. The applicant should be instructed to make the appropriate filing in this case after it has corrected the delinquency.

(☐ No annual report ☐ Unpaid PSC assessment. Amount owed:
☐ Unpaid MoUSF ☐ Unpaid Relay Missouri)

Under penalty of perjury, I affirm that the above statement is true and correct.



KARI SALSMAN