

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

In the Matter of the Name Change of)
ExOp of Missouri, Inc. d/b/a Consolidated)
Communications to Consolidated)
Communications Enterprise Services, Inc.)
d/b/a Consolidated Communications)

Case No. TN-2019-0190

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, by and through counsel, and for its *Recommendation* in this matter hereby states:

1. On December 20, 2018, Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc. d/b/a Consolidated Communications (Company) notified the Commission that ExOp of Missouri, Inc., d/b/a Consolidated Communications would be merged into the Company effective January 1, 2019. This merger results in a name change from ExOp of Missouri, Inc., d/b/a Consolidated Communications to Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc. d/b/a Consolidated Communications. The Commission issued an order in response directing Staff to file a recommendation no later than January 4, 2019.

2. Commission rule 4 CSR 240-28.011.4 provides that transactions involving the sale, merger or consolidation of a company with an existing certificate of service authority or Commission registration do not require Commission approval, with an exception for transactions resulting in a name change or cancellation of an existing certificate or registration. 4 CSR 240-28.011.2 applies to any transaction which will result in a name change and directs the company to provide advance notice to the Commission in the form of a letter signed by a company official which states the new

name and the date by which it will take effect, documentation from the Missouri Secretary of State that the name has been registered and a statement that the company has reviewed and updated, when applicable, its contacts in the Commission's Electronic Filing and Information System (EFIS). The rule also directs companies with an active tariff to either replace the existing tariff in its entirety or file a one-page adoption notice of the existing tariff.

3. Staff reviewed the Company's filing and determined that it has met all requirements of 4 CSR 240-28.011.4 and 4 CSR 240-28.011.2, as outlined in its memorandum attached to this pleading as Appendix A. The adoption notices filed in conjunction with the notice of name change will result in the Company's adoption of tariff sheets PSC Mo. No. 1 (YC-2019-0130), No. 2 (YX-2019-0128), No. 3 (YC-2019-0131) & No. 4 (YX-2019-0129).

4. Staff recommends the Commission recognize the Company's name change and permit the tariff adoptions to take effect by operation of law.

WHEREFORE, Staff recommends that the Commission recognize the Company's name change from ExOp of Missouri, Inc., d/b/a Consolidated Communications to Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc. d/b/a Consolidated Communications; permit the tariff adoptions to take effect by operation of law; and grant such other and further relief as the Commission considers just in the circumstances.

Respectively submitted,

/s/ Whitney Payne

Whitney Payne

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Missouri Public Service Commission

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by electronic mail, or First Class United States Postal Mail, postage prepaid, on this 4th day of January, 2019, to all counsel of record.

/s/Whitney Payne

MEMORANDUM

To: Missouri Public Service Commission Official Case File
Case Nos. TN-2019-0190, TN-2010-0191 & TN-2019-0182
Tariff Nos. YC-2019-0130, YC-2019-0131, YX-2019-0128, YX-2019-0129 & YX-2019-0132

From: Kari Salsman
Telecommunications Department

Subject: Staff's Recommendation to Recognize Name Change

Date: December 28, 2018

On December 20, 2018, three companies filed name change notifications as the result of an internal corporate merger. ExOp of Missouri, Inc. d/b/a Consolidated Communications, ST Long Distance, Inc. d/b/a Consolidated Communications Long Distance and FairPoint Carrier Services, Inc. notified the Commission that they are merging into Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc. As a result of this merger all three companies' names changed to Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc. d/b/a Consolidated Communications effective January 1, 2019.

Each company filed a name change notice and addressed all existing tariffs as follows:
TN-2019-0190: ExOp of Missouri Inc. d/b/a Consolidated Communications filed notice that it is changing its name to Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc. d/b/a Consolidated Communications and is adopting PSC Mo. No. 1 (YC-2019-0130), No. 2 (YX-2019-0128), No. 3 (YC-2019-0131) & No. 4 (YX-2019-0129) under its new name.

TN-2019-0191: ST Long Distance, Inc. d/b/a Consolidated Communications Long Distance filed notice that it is changing its name to Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc. d/b/a Consolidated Communications. The company is withdrawing its PSC Mo No. 1 tariff and will maintain these service descriptions and rate information on its website, which was provided in the notice to detariff¹.

TN-2019-0192: FairPoint Carrier Services, Inc. filed notice that it is changing its name to Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc. d/b/a Consolidated Communications. The company is filing a new PSC Mo No. 5 tariff (YX-2019-0132) with the new name which replaces existing tariff No. 1 in its entirety. Existing Tariff No. 1 will be cancelled as a result.

The filings contain all necessary requirements of the Commission's name change notice rule.² Staff recommends the Commission recognize the name changes and approve all proposed tariff changes related to all three dockets.

¹ Tracking No. JX-2019-0116.

² Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-28.030(9) has been rescinded effective December 30, 2018 with streamlined rule 4 CSR 240-28.011(2) taking its place.