

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

In the Matter of the Application of Ozark Telephone     )  
Company, Seneca Telephone Company, and             )  
Goodman Telephone Company for Approval of         ) **Case No. TO-2006-0222**  
Wireless Traffic Termination Agreements under the   )  
Telecommunications Act of 1996.                         )

**ORDER APPROVING INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENTS**

Issue Date: January 4, 2006

Effective Date: January 14, 2006

This order approves the Interconnection Agreements executed by the parties and filed by Ozark Telephone Company, Seneca Telephone Company, and Goodman Telephone Company (Applicants).

On November 22, 2005, Applicants filed an application with the Commission for approval of Interconnection Agreements with United States Cellular Corporation (US Cellular). The Agreements were filed pursuant to Section 252(e)(1) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.<sup>1</sup> The Agreements would permit the Applicants to interconnect their facilities with US Cellular. The Applicants hold certificates of service authority to provide basic local exchange telecommunications services in Missouri. US Cellular is a commercial mobile radio service carrier operating in Missouri and is not certificated by this Commission.

Although US Cellular is a party to the Agreements, it did not join in the application. On November 23, 2005, the Commission issued an order making US Cellular

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<sup>1</sup> See 47 U.S.C. § 251, *et seq.*

a party in this case and directing any party wishing to request a hearing to do so no later than December 13, 2005. No requests for hearing were filed.

The Staff of the Commission filed a memorandum and recommendation on December 16, 2005, recommending that the Agreements be approved.

### **Discussion**

Under Section 252(e) of the Act, any interconnection agreement adopted by negotiation must be submitted to the Commission for approval. The Commission may reject an agreement if it finds that the agreement is discriminatory or that it is not consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity.

The Staff memorandum recommends that the Agreements be approved and notes that the Agreements meet the limited requirements of the Act in that they are not discriminatory toward nonparties and is not against the public interest. Staff recommends that the Commission direct the parties to submit any amendments to the Commission for approval.

### **Findings of Fact**

The Missouri Public Service Commission, having considered all of the competent and substantial evidence upon the whole record, makes the following findings of fact.

The Commission has considered the application, the supporting documentation, and Staff's recommendation. Based upon that review, the Commission concludes that the Agreements meet the requirements of the Act in that they do not discriminate against a nonparty carrier and implementation of the Agreements are not inconsistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity. The Commission finds that approval of the Agreements shall be conditioned upon the parties submitting any amendments to the Commission for approval pursuant to the procedure set out below.

### **Amendment Procedure**

The Commission has a duty to review all resale and interconnection agreements, whether arrived at through negotiation or arbitration, as mandated by the Act.<sup>2</sup> In order for the Commission's role of review and approval to be effective, the Commission must also review and approve or recognize amendments to these agreements. The Commission has a further duty to make a copy of every resale and interconnection agreement available for public inspection.<sup>3</sup> This duty is in keeping with the Commission's practice under its own rules of requiring telecommunications companies to keep their rate schedules on file with the Commission.<sup>4</sup>

The parties to each resale or interconnection agreement must maintain a complete and current copy of the agreement, together with all amendments, in the Commission's offices. Any proposed amendment must be submitted pursuant to Commission rule 4 CSR 240-3.513(6).

### **Conclusions of Law**

The Missouri Public Service Commission has arrived at the following conclusions of law.

The Commission, under the provisions of Section 252(e)(1) of the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996,<sup>5</sup> is required to review negotiated interconnection agreements. It may only reject a negotiated agreement upon a finding that its implementation would be discriminatory to a nonparty or inconsistent with the public interest, convenience

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<sup>2</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 252.

<sup>3</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 252(h).

<sup>4</sup> 4 CSR 240-3.545.

<sup>5</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(1).

and necessity.<sup>6</sup> Based upon its review of the Agreements between Applicants and US Cellular and its findings of fact, the Commission concludes that the Agreements are neither discriminatory nor inconsistent with the public interest and shall be approved.

The Commission notes that prior to providing telecommunications services in Missouri, a party shall possess the following: (1) an interconnection agreement approved by the Commission; (2) except for wireless providers, a certificate of service authority from the Commission to provide interexchange or basic local telecommunications services; and (3) except for wireless providers, a tariff approved by the Commission.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

1. That the Interconnection Agreements between Ozark Telephone Company, Seneca Telephone Company, and Goodman Telephone Company and United States Cellular Corporation, filed on November 22, 2005, are approved.
2. That any changes or amendments to the Agreements shall be submitted in compliance with 4 CSR 240-3.513(6).
3. That this order shall become effective on January 14, 2006.
4. That this case may be closed on January 15, 2006.

( S E A L )

Colleen M. Dale, Chief Regulatory Law  
Judge, by delegation of authority pursuant  
to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,  
on this 4th day of January, 2006.

**BY THE COMMISSION**



Colleen M. Dale  
Secretary

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<sup>6</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2)(A).