

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Request from the)	
Customers in the Rockaway Beach Exchange)	<u>Case No. TO-2003-0257</u>
For an Expanded Calling Scope to Make)	
Toll Free Calls to Branson.)	

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL’S STATUS REPORT

The Office of the Public Counsel, the Staff of the Commission and CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC (“CenturyTel”) met to discuss the next steps to take in this case after the agenda discussion with the Commission.

One of the items discussed was whether the scope of the case should again be refocused on the relief sought in the original petitions—toll free expanded calling from the Rockaway Beach exchange to Branson. As the Commission may recall, CenturyTel and Public Counsel had explored taking a more regional approach for expanded calling in the Branson /Rockaway Beach area. This culminated in a proposed Stipulation and Agreement by CenturyTel and Public Counsel for a local calling plan and funding that used CPI-TS reductions under Section 392.245.4, RSMo 2000 and customer EAS additive charges that also addressed expanded calling among neighboring exchanges in that area.

Given the new rule for expanded calling petitions, the best course of action is to limit the scope to the Rockaway Beach/ Branson exchanges. If other communities desire expanded calling they can take advantage of the new rule.

The parties also discussed whether CenturyTel intends to offer alternatives to the proposal submitted by Public Counsel based upon the petitions and a conference with the Mayor and other community leaders in December, 2004. If there were alternatives,

whether modifications of the expanded calling proposal or identification of existing calling plans, then these could be incorporated into discussions with Rockaway Beach leaders. In this way, the discussion can focus on tangible options rather than just an open ended question of “What do you want?”

Public Counsel plans to contact Rockaway Beach city officials as well as state legislators from that area concerning the level of public interest in an expanded calling plan and discussion of terms and conditions. This will allow the parties to gauge the current interest in an expanded calling plan given the passage of time from the original petitions. This approach should result in a meaningful discussion of the options identified by the parties with local leaders and give the parties insight into the present view of the area’s calling needs, the alternatives and their prices, and customer interest in pursuing wireline expanded calling.

Public Counsel proposes to provide the Commission with another status report by Friday, January 14, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing was mailed, emailed and/or hand delivered this 12th day of December, 2005 to the following attorneys of record:

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