

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

In the Matter of the Application of MCImetro)
Access Transmission Services, LLC, d/b/a)
Verizon Access Transmission Services, to)
Expand its Certificate of Basic Local) Case No. TA-2009-0083
Exchange Telecommunications Service)
Throughout the State of Missouri, and to)
Continue to Classify the Company and its)
Services as Competitive.)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

1. On September 2, 2008, MCImetro Access Transmission Services, LLC, d/b/a Verizon Access Transmission Services (“Verizon” or “Company”) filed with the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Commission”) an Application: a) to expand its certificate of basic local exchange telecommunications service authority (both facilities-based and resold), to all exchanges throughout Missouri for which it does not yet have such authority;¹ b) for classification of its service as offered in the additional territory, and continued classification of Verizon, as competitive; and c) for a waiver of certain statutes and regulations

2. In the attached Memorandum (Appendix A), the Staff recommends that the Commission grant Verizon’s Application, conditioned upon certain provisions as set out in the Staff Memorandum.

¹ The Company already has Commission authority to provide facilities-based and resold basic local telecommunications service in the service territories of Southwestern Bell Telephone Company n/k/a AT&T, CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC, Spectra Communications Group, LLC, and Sprint Missouri, Inc.

3. 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. (Sections 392.430 and 392.440 RSMo²).

4. The Staff also recommends that the Commission classify the Applicant and the services it proposes to offer in its Application 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. (Section 392.361.4). The majority of the services a competitive company provides must be classified as competitive. (Section 392.361.3³).

5. The Staff further recommends that the Commission grant both the standard waivers for competitive basic local exchange carriers and the additional requested waivers that are set out in the Commission's September 9, 2008 Notice Of Applications For Intrastate Certificates Of Service Authority And Opportunity To Intervene ("Notice Of Applications"). The Commission may waive the application of its rules and certain statutes if the Commission determines that waiver is consistent with the purposes of Chapter 392. (Sections 392.185, 392.361.5³ and 392.420³).

WHEREFORE, the Staff recommends that the Commission issue an Order granting Verizon: a) the requested expansion of its certificate of service authority to include provision of basic local telecommunications service in all exchanges in the State of Missouri, conditioned upon the provisions described in the Staff Memorandum; b) classifying the Company's basic local service in the new territory as competitive; and c) continuing to classify Verizon as

² Unless otherwise noted, all statutory references are to the Revised Statutes of Missouri, 2000.

³ House Bill 1779, effective August 28, 2008.

competitive; and d) granting the standard and additional waivers, as requested by the Company and as set forth in the Commission's September 9, 2008 Notice Of Applications.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ **Dennis L. Frey**

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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 September 2008.

/s/ **Dennis L. Frey**