

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Third Application of Missouri RSA No. 7)
Limited Partnership, d/b/a Mid-Missouri Cellular, for)
Designation as a Telecommunications Company Carrier) **Case No. TO-2005-0325**
Eligible for Federal Universal Service Support Pursuant to)
Section 254 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.)

ORDER GRANTING INTERVENTIONS

Syllabus: This order grants the applications to intervene of Citizens Telephone Company of Higginsville, Missouri, Alma Communications Company d/b/a Alma Telephone Company, Mid-Missouri Telephone Company, Southwestern Bell Telephone, L.P., d/b/a SBC Missouri, Spectra Communications Group, LLC, d/b/a CenturyTel, and CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC.

On March 25, 2005, Missouri RSA No. 7 Limited Partnership d/b/a Mid-Missouri Cellular, filed its application with the Missouri Public Service Commission for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier with respect to federal universal service support. On April 4, 2005, the Commission ordered that any party wishing to intervene must file an application by April 19, 2005.

On April 18, 2005, Spectra and CenturyTel filed their joint application to intervene. Spectra stated that it is a Delaware limited liability company authorized to do business in Missouri. Spectra stated that it is designated as a telecommunications carrier eligible to receive federal universal service support. Spectra noted that it provides basic local exchange and intrastate interexchange telecommunications services under

certificates of service authority issued by the Commission. CenturyTel stated that it is a Louisiana limited liability company authorized to do business in Missouri. CenturyTel noted that on August 30, 2002, it purchased the local exchange property of GTE Midwest Incorporated, d/b/a Verizon Midwest, under the order issued in case number TM-2002-232. CenturyTel stated that it provides basic local and interexchange telecommunications services and has been designated by the Commission as a telecommunications carrier eligible to receive federal universal support.

Alma, Citizens, and Mid-Missouri Telephone filed a joint application to intervene on April 19, 2005. The companies stated that they are certificated telecommunications companies that provide basic local telecommunications services in the state of Missouri. Each company is also a rural telephone company and an incumbent local exchange carrier as defined by the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. Each company has been designated by the Commission as an eligible telecommunications carrier for purposes of receiving federal universal service funds.

Also on April 19, 2005, Southwestern Bell Telephone, L.P., d/b/a SBC Missouri, filed its application to intervene. SBC Missouri stated that it is certificated to provide telecommunications services in the state of Missouri. SBC Missouri stated that under Commission rule 4 CSR 240-2.075(4)(B) it would be in the public interest for the Commission to grant its application to intervene. SBC Missouri stated that it has a long and direct interest in the operation of the USF and will bring its extensive knowledge to this proceeding. According to SBC Missouri, it contributes in excess of \$10 million annually to the federal USF, and the addition of lines provided by Mid-Missouri Cellular will impact the support available to price cap carriers such as SBC Missouri.

The Commission finds that all of the applications to intervene substantially comply with Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.075(4). The Commission finds that the proposed intervenors all have interests in this matter that are different from those of the general public and, further, granting the proposed interventions would serve the public interest. The applications for intervention filed by the parties as set forth above will be granted.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the application to intervene filed by Alma Communications Company, d/b/a Alma Telephone Company, Citizens Telephone Company of Higginsville, Missouri, and Mid-Missouri Telephone Company is granted.
2. That the application to intervene filed by Spectra Communications Group, LLC, d/b/a CenturyTel, and CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC, is granted.
3. That the application to intervene filed by Southwestern Bell Telephone, L.P., d/b/a SBC Missouri, is granted.
4. That this order will become effective on April 26, 2005.

BY THE COMMISSION

(S E A L)

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

Nancy Dippell, Senior Regulatory Law
Judge, by delegation of authority pursuant
to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 26th day of April, 2005.