

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

Staff of the Public Service Commission)	
Of the State of Missouri,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	Case No. TC-2005-0357
)	
Cass County Telephone Company)	
Limited Partnership)	
)	
Respondent.)	

JOINT STATUS REPORT

COMES NOW Complainant Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Staff”) and Respondent Cass County Telephone Company Limited Partnership (“CassTel”) by and through the undersigned counsel, and state the following to the Commission:

1. On or about September 23, 2005, Staff and CassTel filed a Joint Motion for Suspension of Procedural Schedule and Motion for Expedited Treatment (the “Joint Motion”) in the referenced matter. In the context of that filing, it was stated that “Staff will file status reports every thirty (30) days during the suspension period, informing the Commission on the Parties’ progress towards settlement.” (Joint Motion, Paragraph 7).

2. By Order dated September 26, 2005, the Commission suspended proceedings in this case in accordance with the Joint Motion.

3. The discussions between Staff and CassTel have been ongoing and, though a number of issues still need to be resolved, there has been meaningful progress and both parties remain optimistic about the prospects for settlement. Staff and CassTel have exchanged drafts of

settlement documentation. Also, the owner of CassTel, Local Exchange Company, LLC, is actively pursuing discussions with a third party to sell all of its ownership in CassTel.

4. During the last thirty (30) days, Staff and CassTel have also engaged in a cooperative effort to restate CassTel's books and records. Further, CassTel through its third-party manager has taken a number of steps over the past several months to enhance the financial and managerial integrity of CassTel.

5. Staff and CassTel will continue to keep the Commission advised regarding the status of their discussions consistent with the commitment made in the Joint Motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

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/s/ Robert Franson

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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 25th day of October, 2005.

/s/ Robert Franson