

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

In the Matter of a Commission Inquiry into                    )  
the Metropolitan Calling Area Plan and Calling        )  
Scopes in Missouri.    )  
**Case No. TW-2004-0471**

## **ORDER ACCEPTING TASK FORCE FINAL REPORT AND CLOSING CASE**

On March 18, 2004, the Commission issued an order establishing a task force or working group to investigate whether, and if so, what type, of changes should be made to the Metropolitan Calling Area Plans and to calling scopes in Missouri in general. The Task Force held its first meeting on June 15, 2004, with numerous meetings held thereafter. On September 29, 2004, the Task Force filed its Final Report. Several members of the MCA Task Force gave a presentation regarding the Final Report during the Commission's October 7, 2004 Agenda session.

The major Recommendations of the Task Force are summarized as follows:

- The Commission should support initiatives to simplify, equalize, and reduce inter-company compensation to make calling plans more economically feasible.
- The Commission should promulgate a rule and implement a process to entertain requests for the establishment of new expanded calling plans, or changes to existing expanded calling plans.
- The Commission should investigate whether additional competitive incentives can be achieved with the establishment of a high-cost, state supported fund to ensure that basic local service rates remain affordable for all Missourians. The state fund should be funded through an end-user surcharge and all funds should be disbursed equitably among high-cost providers without regard to company size or locations served.

- The Commission should account for competitive implications, revenue impacts, company and societal costs of implementing calling plans balanced against the desire for specific actions to address community-of-interest issues.
- The Task Force recommends that certain previously-filed petitions for modification to the MCA be taken up and considered as filed petitions under the process proposed in the Final Report. These petitions include:

Kansas City MCA

- A proposal to reclassify the Greenwood exchange from MCA 3 (optional) to MCA 2 (mandatory).
- A proposal to add the Lexington exchange to Tier 5 at MCA 5 rates.

Springfield MCA

- A proposal to reclassify the Ozark exchange from MCA 2 (optional) to MCA 1 (mandatory).

St. Louis MCA

- A proposal to establish a new optional Tier 6 to include the following exchanges: Washington, Union, Wright City, St. Clair, Marthasville, Beaufort, Foley, and Warrenton.

Several Task Force members filed responses to the Final Report, including Natelle Dietrich, John Van Eschen and William Voight of the Commission's Staff, Michael J. Pauls of AT&T Communications of the Southwest, Inc., and Craig Unruh of SBC Missouri. These supplemental statements make it clear that not all of the Task Force members believe that the Task Force adequately addressed the Commission's original directives. In addition, not all of the Task Force members agree as to how the previously filed petitions for modification to be MCA should be addressed.

The Commission has reviewed and considered the Task Force's Final Report, along with the comments filed in response to that document. As a result of the Task Force recommendations, the Commission has opened a rulemaking case, Case No. TX-2004-0194, regarding expanded calling scopes. This proposed rule was published in the Missouri Register on April 15, 2005, and a public hearing regarding the proposed rule

will be held on May 16, 2005. The Commission is also moving forward with several expanded calling scope cases, including the following:

- TO-2003-0257, In the Matter of the Request from the Customers in the Rockaway Beach Exchange for an Expanded Calling Scope to Make Toll-Free Calls to Branson;
- TO-2005-0141, In the Matter of a Request for Expansion of the St. Louis Metropolitan Calling Area Plan to Include the Exchanges of Washington, Union, Wright City, St. Clair, Marthasville, Beaufort, Foley, and Warrenton;
- TO-2005-0142, In the Matter of a Request for Expansion of the Kansas City Metropolitan Calling Area Plan to Include the Exchange of Lexington as Part of Tier 5;
- TO-2005-0143, In the Matter of a Request for Modification of the Springfield Metropolitan Calling Area Plan to Make the Ozark Exchange a MCA Tier 1 Exchange; and
- TO-2005-0144, In the Matter of a Request for the Modification of the Kansas City Metropolitan Calling Area Plan to Make the Greenwood Exchange Part of the Mandatory MCA Tier 2.

The Commission appreciates the time and effort of the Task Force. The Commission determines that the appropriate course of action at this time is for the Commission to continue with its rulemaking case and the five expanded calling scope cases noted above, and to close this case, TW-2004-0471.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

1. That Case No. TW-2004-0471 may be closed on May 27, 2005.

2. That this order shall become effective on May 26, 2005.

**BY THE COMMISSION**

Colleen M. Dale  
Secretary

( S E A L )

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

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,  
on this 16th day of May, 2005.