

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

In the Matter of the Application of ExOp     )  
of Missouri, Inc. d/b/a Unite for  
Designation as a Telecommunications     )  
Company Eligible for Federal Universal     )  
Service Support in the Platte City     )  
Exchange Pursuant to Section 254 of the     )  
Telecommunications Act of 1996     )

Case No. CO-2003-0252

**STAFF'S SUGGESTIONS IN SUPPORT  
OF THE UNANIMOUS STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT**

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission and for its Suggestions in Support of the Unanimous Stipulation and Agreement states:

On March 14, 2003, ExOp of Missouri, Inc. d/b/a Unite ("ExOp" or "Applicant"), the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Staff") and the Office of the Public Counsel ("OPC") filed a Unanimous Stipulation and Agreement requesting that the Commission designate ExOp as an eligible telecommunications carrier ("ETC") for the Platte City, Missouri exchange, pursuant to Sections 214 and 254 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("Act").

2. Section 214(e)(2) of the Act states that the Commission shall upon request designate a common carrier that meets the requirements of Section 214(e)(1) as an eligible telecommunications carrier ("ETC") for a service area designated by the Commission. Section 214(e)(1) requires a carrier to:

- a. Offer the services that are supported by Federal universal service support mechanisms under section 254(c), either using its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale of another carrier's services (including the services offered by another eligible telecommunications carrier); and
- b. Advertise the availability of such services and the charges therefore using media of general distribution.

The services that are supported by Federal universal service support mechanisms are listed in 47 C.F.R. 54.101 and include the following:

- a. Voice grade access to the public switched network;
- b. Local usage;
- c. Dual tone multi-frequency signaling or its functional equivalent;
- d. Single-party service or its functional equivalent;
- e. Access to emergency services;
- f. Access to operator services;
- g. Access to interexchange service;
- h. Access to directory assistance; and

Toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers;<sup>1</sup>

3 ExOp states on Page 4 of its Application that it offers in the Platte City, Missouri exchange, through its own facilities, all of the services supported by Federal universal service support. ExOp's Application is supported by the affidavit of ExOp's Vice President of Regulatory and Governmental Affairs. The Staff believes the Applicant sufficiently demonstrated that it meets the requirement contained in 214(e)(1)(a).

4. ExOp further demonstrates in Appendix B to its Application that it advertises the availability of its services through media of general distribution. The advertisements in ExOp's Appendix B do not specifically advertise the charges for such services, however, the Yellow Pages listing in ExOp's Appendix B contains ExOp's website address. A check of ExOp's website, [www.uniteone.com](http://www.uniteone.com), demonstrated to the Staff that ExOp advertises the charges for its

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<sup>1</sup> 47 C.F.R. 54.400(d) clarifies that "toll limitation" denotes either toll blocking or toll control for eligible telecommunications carriers that are incapable of providing both services. For eligible telecommunications carriers that are capable of providing both services, "toll limitation" denotes both toll blocking and toll control.

services through media of general distribution. A copy of the pricing page from ExOp's website is attached hereto and labeled Appendix A.<sup>2</sup> The Staff believes the Applicant sufficiently demonstrated that it meets the requirement contained in 214(e)(1)(b).

5. In the case of an area served by a rural telephone company, Section 214(e)(2) requires that any additional ETC designation for that area be in the public interest. Sprint Missouri, Inc. ("Sprint") serves the Platte City, Missouri exchange and was granted ETC status by the Commission on December 23, 1997 in Case No. TO-98-205. On April 30, 1998, Sprint self-certified to the Federal Communications Commission that it meets the rural telephone company definition found in Section 153(37) of the Act. The Staff believes, as stated in the Stipulation and Agreement, that designating ExOp as an ETC is in the public interest because it will expand the availability of telecommunications services and will further stimulate economic development.

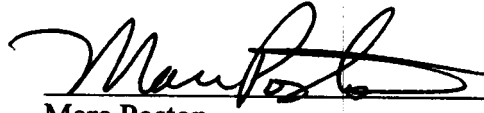
WHEREFORE, the Staff respectfully offers these suggestions in support of the Unanimous Stipulation and Agreement, and further recommends that the Commission designate the Applicant as an eligible telecommunications carrier for purposes of Federal universal service support in the Platte City, Missouri exchange.

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<sup>2</sup> The pricing page can be found on ExOp's website at [www.uniteone.com/phonepricing.html](http://www.uniteone.com/phonepricing.html)

Respectfully submitted,

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### Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile or e-mailed to all counsel of record this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March 2003.



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## LOCAL AND LONG DISTANCE PHONE SERVICE



Internet

### PRICING

Telephone

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Local Phone Service with Metro Calling	\$21.99
Additional Line with Metro Calling	\$20.34

### ENHANCED FEATURES

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Value Pack (Your choice of 5 phone features)	\$11.00
Caller ID / Name & Number	\$7.50
Caller ID / Number Only	\$6.50
Call Forwarding	\$3.00
Call Waiting	\$3.00
3-Way Calling	\$1.50
Speed Dial	\$1.50
Call Return	\$3.00
Auto Redial	\$3.00
Teen Ring	\$3.25
Non-Published Number	\$1.60
Caller ID on Call Waiting	\$2.50
Caller ID on TV	\$1.75
Voice mail	\$4.95
Additional mailbox	\$1.95

### UNITE LONG DISTANCE

USA*	
Weekend/Evenings	\$0.07/minute
Weekday business hours	\$0.09/minute
International	Varies/minute

\*816/660 calls outside the Metro Calling area \$0.09/minute.