

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of Northwest Missouri Cellular Limited Partnership for Designation as a Telecommunications Company Carrier Eligible for Federal Universal Service Support Pursuant to § 254 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.)
)
) **Case No. TO-2005-0466**
)

ORDER GRANTING INTERVENTIONS, SETTING PREHEARING CONFERENCE, AND DIRECTING FILING

Issue Date: July 12, 2005

Effective Date: July 20, 2005

Syllabus: This order grants the applications to intervene of Southwestern Bell Telephone, L.P., d/b/a SBC Missouri, Grand River Mutual Telephone Corporation, Holway Telephone Company, Spectra Communications Group, LLC, d/b/a CenturyTel, and CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC. The order also sets a prehearing conference.

On June 3, 2005, Northwest Missouri Cellular Limited Partnership filed an application for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier with respect to federal universal service support. On June 7, 2005, the Commission ordered that any party wishing to intervene must file an application by June 27, 2005. SBC Missouri, Grand River, Holway, Spectra, and CenturyTel filed timely applications for intervention.

SBC Missouri stated that it is a certificated telecommunications company that provides basic local telecommunications services in the state of Missouri. SBC Missouri states that it has an interest in this matter different from that of the general public in that it contributes in excess of \$10 million annually to the federal USF and that the granting of

Northwest Missouri Cellular's application will affect the USF's administration and the amount of contributions SBC Missouri makes to the USF.

Spectra and CenturyTel filed a joint application to intervene. 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. Spectra states that it is the largest recipient of universal service funds in the state.

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.

Grand River and Holway also filed a joint application to intervene. Grand River and Holway stated that they are rural telephone companies and incumbent local exchange carriers as defined by the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. Both Grand River and Holway are certificated to provide telecommunications services in the state of Missouri. According to Grand River and Holway, both of the companies have been designated by the Commission as eligible telecommunications carriers for purposes of receiving federal universal service support.

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.

On June 20, 2005, the Office of the Public Counsel filed a motion requesting that the Commission hold an evidentiary hearing to determine if Northwest Missouri Cellular should be designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier. Northwest Missouri Cellular's eligibility to receive federal universal support is now at issue. To move toward a resolution of this matter the Commission will convene a prehearing conference.

At the prehearing conference, the parties or their representatives should be prepared to discuss the nature of any discovery each will conduct and the interval necessary for its completion; the number of witnesses each expects to call at hearing; the number and nature of any exhibits each expects to offer at hearing; and the anticipated length of the hearing.

The parties will also be directed to jointly or separately file a proposed procedural schedule. The proposed procedural schedule shall establish dates for the filing of a list of the issues to be determined by the Commission, statements by the parties of their position on each issue, and pretrial briefs on the issues. The proposed procedural schedule shall also include a date for the filing of a list of the witnesses to be called on each day of hearing, the order in which they shall appear, and the order of cross-examination agreed upon by the parties. The proposed procedural schedule shall also suggest date(s) for the hearing of this matter.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That a prehearing conference shall be held on July 25, 2005, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The prehearing conference shall be held in Room 305 at the Commission's office in the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri, a

building that meets accessibility standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need additional accommodations to participate in this public hearing, please call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 prior to the hearing.

2. That the parties may elect to participate in the prehearing conference by telephone by calling the presiding Judge at 573-751-4393 no later than 5:00 p.m. on July 20, 2005.

3. That the application to intervene filed by Southwestern Bell Telephone, L.P., d/b/a SBC Missouri, is granted.

4. That the application to intervene filed by Spectra Communications Group, LLC, d/b/a CenturyTel, and CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC, is granted.

5. That the application to intervene filed by Grand River Mutual Telephone Corporation and Holway Telephone Company is granted.

6. That the parties shall jointly or separately file a proposed procedural schedule no later than August 1, 2005.

7. That this order will become effective July 20, 2005.

(S E A L)

BY THE COMMISSION



Colleen M. Dale
Secretary

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

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 12th day of July, 2005.