

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

In the Matter of the Joint Application of)
Comtel Telecom Assets LP and VarTec)
Telecom, Inc., Excel Telecommunications,)
Inc., and VarTec Solutions, Inc, and.) Case No. TM-2006-0186
VarTec Solutions, Inc., for Approval)
of a Transfer of Assets.)

Public Counsel’s Response to Request for Variance

The Office of Public Counsel has no objection to Joint Applicants’ Motion that requests a variance to the specific requirements of 4 CSR 240-33.150 (4)(B) to substitute notice to the subscriber by letter in lieu of notice in each subscriber’s bill. The substitution of a letter containing the required notice terms is reasonable and Appellants have stated good cause for relief. Public Counsel does not see the grant of the variance as detrimental to ratepayers and considers it consistent with the public interest by providing reasonable and timely notice.

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing was mailed, emailed and/or hand delivered this 2nd day of March, 2006 to the attorneys of record.

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