BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In Re: ICC VoIP Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement By and Between CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC, d/b/a CenturyLink f/k/a GTE Midwest Incorporated d/b/a Verizon Midwest and Sprint Communications Company, L.P. f/k/a AT&T Communications of the Southwest, Inc. Pursuant to Sections 251 and 252 Of the Telecommunications Act of 1996	)))))))	**File No. TK-2015-0034**

ORDER APPROVING AMENDMENTS TO INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT

Issue Date: August 29, 2014 Effective Date: September 8, 2014

This order approves the amendments to the interconnection agreement between the parties filed by CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC, d/b/a CenturyLink f/k/a GTE Midwest Incorporated, d/b/a Verizon Midwest.

On August 6, 2014, CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC, d/b/a CenturyLink f/k/a GTE Midwest Incorporated, d/b/a Verizon Midwest filed an application with the Commission for approval of amendments to its interconnection agreement with Sprint Communications Company, L.P., f/k/a AT&T Communications of the Southwest, Inc. (Sprint). CenturyLink and Sprint currently have a Commission-approved interconnection agreement between them. In the current application, the parties have agreed to amend the interconnection agreement. The amendments were filed pursuant to Section 252(e)(1) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.[1] The amendments would replace and add certain terms, conditions, and rates with respect to the exchange of VoIP traffic. Both CenturyLink and

Sprint hold certificates of service authority to provide basic local exchange telecommunications services in Missouri.

Although Sprint is a party to the agreement, it did not join in the application. On August 7, 2014, the Commission issued an order making Sprint a party in this case and directing any party wishing to request a hearing to do so no later than August 22, 2014. No requests for hearing were filed.

Under Section 252(e) of the Act, any interconnection agreement adopted by negotiation must be submitted to the Commission for approval. The Commission may reject an agreement if it finds that the agreement is discriminatory or that it is not consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity.

On August 15, 2014, the Staff of the Commission filed a memorandum and recommendation. The Staff memorandum recommends that the amendments to the agreement be approved and notes that the agreement meets the limited requirements of the Act in that it is not discriminatory toward nonparties and is not against the public interest. Staff recommends that the Commission direct the parties to submit any further amendments to the Commission for approval.

Findings of Fact

The Commission has considered the application, the supporting documentation, and Staff's verified recommendation. Based upon that review, the Commission finds that the agreement as amended meets the requirements of the Act in that it does not discriminate against a nonparty carrier and implementation of the agreement as amended is not inconsistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity. The Commission finds

[1] *See* 47 U.S.C. § 251, *et seq.*

that approval of the agreement as amended shall be conditioned upon the parties submitting any further amendments to the Commission for approval pursuant to the procedure set out below.

Amendment Procedure

The Commission has a duty to review all interconnection agreements, whether arrived at through negotiation or arbitration, as mandated by the Act.[2] In order for the Commission's role of review and approval to be effective, the Commission must also review and approve or recognize amendments to these agreements. The Commission has a further duty to make a copy of every interconnection agreement available for public inspection.[3] This duty is in keeping with the Commission's practice under its own rules of requiring telecommunications companies to keep their rate schedules on file with the Commission.[4]

The parties to each interconnection agreement must maintain a complete and current copy of the agreement, together with all amendments, in the Commission's offices. Any proposed amendment must be submitted pursuant to Commission rule 4 CSR 240-3.513(6).

Conclusions of Law

The Commission, under the provisions of Section 252(e)(1) of the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996,[5] is required to review negotiated interconnection agreements. It may only reject a negotiated agreement upon a finding that its implementation would be discriminatory to a nonparty or inconsistent with the public interest, conven-

[2] 47 U.S.C. § 252.
[3] 47 U.S.C. § 252(h).
[4] 4 CSR 240-3.545.

ience and necessity.[6] Based upon its review of the amendments to the agreement between CenturyLink and Sprint and its findings of fact, the Commission concludes that the agreement as amended is neither discriminatory nor inconsistent with the public interest and shall be approved.

The Commission notes that prior to providing telecommunications services in Missouri, a party shall possess the following: (1) an interconnection agreement approved by the Commission; (2) except for wireless providers, a certificate of service authority from the Commission to provide interexchange or basic local telecommunications services; and (3) except for wireless providers, a tariff approved by the Commission.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The amendments to the interconnection agreement between CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC, d/b/a CenturyLink f/k/a GTE Midwest Incorporated, d/b/a Verizon Midwest and Sprint Communications Company, L.P., f/k/a AT&T Communications of the Southwest, Inc., filed on August 6, 2014, are approved.

2. Any changes or amendments to this agreement shall be submitted in compliance with 4 CSR 240-3.513(6).

[5] 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(1).
[6] 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2)(A).

3. This order shall become effective on September 8, 2014.

4. This file may be closed on September 9, 2014.

BY THE COMMISSION

Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

Morris L. Woodruff, Chief Regulatory Law Judge, by delegation of authority pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 29th day of August, 2014.