

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

FILED

MAY 09 2003

Missouri Public
Service Commission

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.)
Case No. TO-2003-0257

**PROGRESS REPORT
AND
JOINT MOTION FOR FURTHER STAY OF PROCEEDINGS**

COME NOW the Office of the Public Counsel ("Public Counsel"), the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Staff") and CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC ("CenturyTel") (collectively referred to herein as the "Parties"), pursuant to the Commission's Order Directing Filing entered in this matter on April 7, 2003, and for their Progress Report and Joint Motion for Further Stay of Proceedings respectfully state as follows:

1. On March 6, 2003, the Parties appeared at the prehearing conference held in this matter, and Staff expressed its support for the relief requested in the Joint Motion for Stay of Proceedings previously filed on February 21, 2003, by Public Counsel and CenturyTel. In the Joint Motion, CenturyTel stated that it had a meeting scheduled with representatives of several communities surrounding Branson, including Rockaway Beach, to discuss issues related to those raised by Public Counsel in this case and, for that reason, CenturyTel and Public Counsel requested that the Commission defer any action in response to Public Counsel's petition for a period of sixty (60) days.

2. On April 7, 2003, the Commission issued its Order Directing Filing, stating that the "Commission finds it appropriate to grant the 60-day stay requested by the parties," and also noting that the "parties affirmed at the prehearing conference that a

report would be filed at the conclusion of the stay to outline the posture of the case at that time.” (Order at 2.) Accordingly, the Commission ordered that the report on the progress of this case should be filed by Public Counsel no later than May 6, 2003, and the Commission further indicated that CenturyTel and Staff could join in that report or file separate pleadings as they deem appropriate.

3. CenturyTel has conducted “Community Informational Meetings” in Branson, Missouri with representatives of several communities potentially involved in this matter (referred to by CenturyTel as the “Tri-Lakes” market area) on March 14 and April 17, 2003. CenturyTel has advised the Public Counsel and Staff that these meetings, well-attended by a broad base of private and public officials (including representatives of chambers of commerce, banking, school and real estate firms, as well as mayors and state representatives and senators), represent the latest phases of research and analysis in a strategic planning process that began back in the Fall of 2002 with market research focus groups. CenturyTel has strived to keep both the Staff and Public Counsel updated and aware of the status and content of the information provided, and feedback received, at these meetings, and CenturyTel has reported that the response of meeting attendees continues to be very positive.

4. As it continues its internal process to formulate product solutions to meet its customers’ calling needs, CenturyTel has advised Public Counsel and Staff that it anticipates, at the present time, a tariff filing(s) in the 3rd Quarter 2003 that will address these issues.

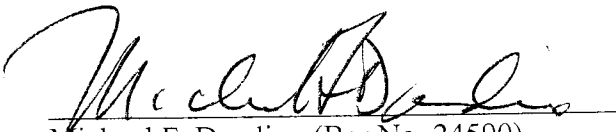
5. Accordingly, based on CenturyTel’s representations as set forth in Paragraphs 3 and 4 above, and in order to allow CenturyTel the opportunity to continue

to address these issues on an informal basis, the Parties respectfully request that the Commission continue to defer any action in response to Public Counsel's petition until October 1, 2003. The Parties affirm that they will file a report on or before that date, to outline the posture of the case at that time.

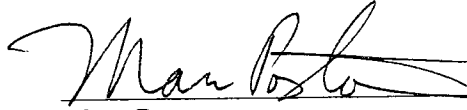
WHEREFORE, the Office of the Public Counsel, the Staff of the Commission and CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC respectfully move that the Commission (1) accept this Progress Report as responsive to the Commission's Order Directing Filing; and (2) issue an Order in this matter further staying any action in response to Public Counsel's petition until October 1, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL

By: 
Michael F. Dandino (Bar No. 24590)
Senior Public Counsel
200 Madison Street, Box 7800
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Telephone: (573) 751-5559
Facsimile: (573) 751-5562
E-mail: mdandino@ded.state.mo.us

DANA K. JOYCE
General Counsel



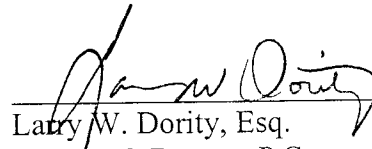
Marc Poston
Senior Counsel
Missouri Bar No. 45722

Attorney for the Staff of the
Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-8701 (Telephone)
(573) 751-9285 (Fax)
e-mail: marcposton@psc.state.mo.us

And

CENTURYTEL OF MISSOURI, LLC

By:

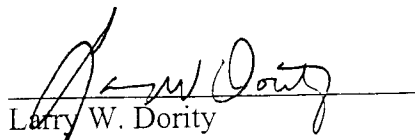


Larry W. Dority, Esq. MBN 25617
FISCHER & DORITY, P.C.
101 Madison, Suite 400
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
Telephone: (573) 636-6758
Facsimile: (573) 636-0383
E-mail: lwdority@sprintmail.com

Attorneys for CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I do hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document has been hand-delivered, transmitted by e-mail or mailed, First Class, postage prepaid, to all counsel of record this 6th day of May, 2003.


Larry W. Dority