

Missouri Public Service Commission
Adjudication Division - Data Center
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0360

MO 419-2651 (9-01)

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Missouri Public
Service Commission

U.S. Cellular
David LaFuria
1650 Tysons Boulevard
McLean, VA 22102

IA
221
10/14/06

22102+4456-99 0021 551020360

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**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service
Commission held at its office in
Jefferson City on the 12th day of
October, 2006.

In the Matter of the Application of USCOC of)
Greater Missouri, LLC for Designation as an) **Case No. TO-2005-0384**
Eligible Telecommunications Carrier)
Pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996)

ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO RECLASSIFY INFORMATION

Issue Date: October 12, 2006

Effective Date: October 23, 2006

On August 11, 2006, USCOC of Greater Missouri, LLC, d/b/a U.S. Cellular, filed certain documents intended to comply with the Commission's March 21 order directing it to explain how it would use support from the Federal Universal Service Fund to upgrade its network through improved coverage, signal strength or capacity, in ways that would not otherwise occur without the receipt of high-cost support, during its first two years as an ETC. Five appendices providing details about U.S. Cellular's plan, which U.S. Cellular designated as highly confidential, were attached to that compliance filing. On August 31, AT&T Missouri filed a motion asking the Commission to reclassify appendices 1, 2, 4, and 5 as proprietary rather than highly confidential. U.S. Cellular responded on September 6, and AT&T replied on September 8.

The Commission initially considered AT&T's motion to reclassify at its September 19 agenda meeting. At that time, the Commission decided that it would like to have the advice of its Staff before ruling on AT&T's motion. On September 20, the Commission ordered its

Staff to respond to AT&T's motion by September 27. Any party wishing to do so was ordered to reply to Staff's response by October 4. Staff filed its response on September 26, and AT&T and U.S. Cellular replied on October 4.

AT&T contends that the information contained in the appendices is similar to information that U.S. Cellular filed, or reclassified, as public information earlier in this case. According to AT&T, U.S. Cellular has not explained why the information in the appendices should be accorded a higher level of protection. AT&T argues that the information should not be treated as highly confidential and should instead be classified as proprietary.

In its response, U.S. Cellular argues that the information contained in the appendices to its compliance filing is much more extensive than the limited information it disclosed earlier in this case. It contends that public disclosure of these materials would "reveal confidential details pertaining to U.S. Cellular's network infrastructure, customer base, marketing strategies and the company's competitive position in the Missouri telecommunications marketplace." U.S. Cellular argues that this information meets the Commission's definition of highly confidential information and should be protected as such.

Staff's response to AT&T's motion suggests that U.S. Cellular's description of the material in the appendices as "marketing analysis or other market-specific information relating to services offered in competition with others," would meet the definition of Highly Confidential information found in the Commission's standard protective order. For that reason, Staff suggests that AT&T's motion to reclassify the information should be denied.

The Commission's standard protective order, which was issued in this case on August 12, 2005, distinguishes between highly confidential information and proprietary information, and provides different levels of protection for the two categories of information.

Paragraph A of the protective order defines proprietary information as "Information concerning trade secrets, as well as confidential or private technical, financial and business information." Highly confidential information is defined as:

Information concerning (1) material or documents that contain information relating directly to specific customers; (2) employee-sensitive information; (3) marketing analyses or other market-specific information relating to services offered in competition with others; (4) reports, work papers or other documentation related to work produced by internal or external auditors or consultants; strategies employed, to be employed, or under consideration in contract negotiations.

Both highly confidential and proprietary information is protected from disclosure to the public by the protective order. But the protective order establishes different levels of restriction on the availability and use of that information by the parties.

In particular, paragraph C of the protective order provides that highly confidential information may be disclosed only to a party's attorney and outside experts retained for the purposes of the case. Employees, officers, or directors of a party may not be designated as an outside expert and therefore may not view highly confidential information. The use of proprietary information is less restricted. Under paragraph D of the protective order, proprietary information may be disclosed to a party's attorney, to outside experts, and to employees of a party "who are working as consultants to such attorney or intend to file testimony in these proceedings." For this case, that means that if U.S. Cellular's information remains classified as highly confidential, that information could not be reviewed and evaluated by employees of AT&T or the other parties.

AT&T is not asking that U.S. Cellular's appendices be reclassified as public information. Rather, it is asking that the information be reclassified as proprietary rather than highly confidential. The Commission's decision regarding AT&T's motion must then

turn on the distinction between the protective order's definitions of highly confidential and proprietary information.

The information in the appendices that U.S. Cellular would like to protect as highly confidential is described as follows:

Appendix 1 – List of Proposed Sites with Approximate Start and Completion Dates;

Appendix 2 – List of Wire Centers to Receive Improved Coverage or Capacity;

Appendix 4 – Map of Existing Coverage over ILEC Wire Center Boundaries; and

Appendix 5 – Map of Proposed Cell Sites and Coverage over ILEC Wire Center Boundaries.

Appendix 3 is a spreadsheet detailing the costs of proposed network improvements. It is also marked as highly confidential, but AT&T does not ask that it be reclassified.

The information in appendices 1, 2, 4, and 5 is not a "marketing analyses or other market-specific information relating to services offered in competition with others" such as would qualify it for increased protection as highly confidential information. Nor does it fall within any other category of information defined by the protective order as qualifying for highly confidential designation. Appendix 1 is simply a list of proposed cell tower sites and approximate start and completion dates. Appendix 2 relates those proposed sites to the wire centers that would receive improved coverage. Appendices 4 and 5 are maps of Missouri showing general information about the impact the new cell sites would have on U.S. Cellular's existing coverage. The challenged information could reveal, in a general way, information about U.S. Cellular's future plans to increase its competition in certain areas of the state and for that reason should be protected from disclosure to the general public. However, the information is best described as "information concerning trade

secrets, as well as confidential or private technical, financial and business information.” As such, it falls within the protective order’s definition of proprietary information. Under that definition, it will be protected from complete disclosure to the public and potential competitors, but will still be made available for use by the witnesses offered by the other parties to this case.

AT&T’s motion will be granted and appendices 1, 2, 4, and 5 to U.S. Cellular’s compliance filing will be reclassified from highly confidential to proprietary. This order will be given a ten-day effective date to give U.S. Cellular an opportunity to request reconsideration before the reclassification is made effective.

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. AT&T Missouri’s Motion to Reclassify Certain Confidentially Marked Information of U.S. Cellular from “HC” to “P” is granted.
2. On October 23, 2006, the Commission’s Data Center shall reclassify appendices 1, 2, 4, and 5 to U.S. Cellular’s August 11, 2006 compliance filing from Highly Confidential to Proprietary.
3. This order shall become effective on October 23, 2006.

(S E A L)

BY THE COMMISSION



Colleen M. Dale
Secretary

Davis, Chm., Murray and Appling, CC., concur
Gaw, C., dissents
Clayton, C., absent

Woodruff, Deputy Chief Regulatory Law Judge

STATE OF MISSOURI

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and
I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.**

**WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City,
Missouri, this 12th day of October 2006.**



**Colleen M. Dale
Secretary**

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

October 12, 2006

Case No. TO-2005-0384

General Counsel's Office
P.O. Box 360
200 Madison Street, Suite 800
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Lewis R. Mills, Jr.
P.O. Box 2230
200 Madison Street, Suite 650
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Alma Telephone Company
W. England
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Alma Telephone Company
Brian McCartney
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

AT&T Missouri
Leo Bub
One SBC Center, Room 3518
St. Louis, MO 63101

AT&T Missouri
Mimi MacDonald
One SBC Center
Suite 3510
St. Louis, MO 63101

AT&T Missouri
Paul Lane
One SBC Center, Room 4300
St. Louis, MO 63101

AT&T Missouri
Robert Gryzmala
One SBC Center
St. Louis, MO 63101

BPS Telephone Company
Brian McCartney
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

BPS Telephone Company
Sondra Morgan
312 East Capitol
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

BPS Telephone Company
W. England
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

CenturyTel of Missouri LLC
Charles Stewart
4603 John Garry Drive, Suite 11
Columbia, MO 65203

Choctaw Telephone Company
Sondra Morgan
312 East Capitol
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Choctaw Telephone Company
W. England
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Choctaw Telephone Company
Brian McCartney
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Citizens Telephone Company of
Higginsville Missouri
W. England
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Citizens Telephone Company of
Higginsville Missouri
Brian McCartney
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Craw-Kan Telephone Cooperative,
Brian McCartney
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Craw-Kan Telephone Cooperative,
Sondra Morgan
312 East Capitol
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Craw-Kan Telephone Cooperative,
W. England
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Ellington Telephone Company
Brian McCartney
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Ellington Telephone Company
Sondra Morgan
312 East Capitol
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Ellington Telephone Company
W. England
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Farber Telephone Company
Brian McCartney
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Farber Telephone Company
Sondra Morgan
312 East Capitol
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Farber Telephone Company
W. England
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Fidelity Telephone Company
Brian McCartney
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Fidelity Telephone Company
Sondra Morgan
312 East Capitol
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Fidelity Telephone Company
W. England
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Goodman Telephone Company, Inc.
Brian McCartney
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Granby Telephone Company
Brian McCartney
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Grand River Mutual Telephone
Corporation
Brian McCartney
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Green Hills Telephone Corporation
W. England
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Holway Telephone Company
Brian McCartney
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Iamo Telephone Company
Sondra Morgan
312 East Capitol
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Kingdom Telephone Company
Sondra Morgan
312 East Capitol
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

KLM Telephone Company
W. England
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Le-Ru Telephone Company
Sondra Morgan
312 East Capitol
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Mark Twain Rural Telephone Company
Brian McCartney
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

McDonald County Telephone Company
Brian McCartney
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Goodman Telephone Company, Inc.
Sondra Morgan
312 East Capitol
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Granby Telephone Company
Sondra Morgan
312 East Capitol
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Grand River Mutual Telephone
Corporation
Sondra Morgan
312 East Capitol
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Green Hills Telephone Corporation
Brian McCartney
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Holway Telephone Company
Sondra Morgan
312 East Capitol
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Iamo Telephone Company
W. England
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Kingdom Telephone Company
W. England
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Lathrop Telephone Company
W. England
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Le-Ru Telephone Company
W. England
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Mark Twain Rural Telephone Company
Sondra Morgan
312 East Capitol
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

McDonald County Telephone Company
W. England
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Goodman Telephone Company, Inc.
W. England
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Granby Telephone Company
W. England
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Grand River Mutual Telephone
Corporation
W. England
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Holway Telephone Company
W. England
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Iamo Telephone Company
Brian McCartney
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Kingdom Telephone Company
Brian McCartney
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

KLM Telephone Company
Brian McCartney
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Lathrop Telephone Company
Brian McCartney
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Le-Ru Telephone Company
Brian McCartney
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Mark Twain Rural Telephone Company
W. England
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Mid-Missouri Telephone Company
Brian McCartney
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Mid-Missouri Telephone Company
Sondra Morgan
312 East Capitol
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Miller Telephone Company
W. England
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

MoKan Dial, Inc.
W. England
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

New Florence Telephone Company
Sondra Morgan
312 East Capitol
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

New London Telephone Company
Sondra Morgan
312 East Capitol
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone
Company
Brian McCartney
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Orchard Farm Telephone Company
Sondra Morgan
312 East Capitol
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Ozark Telephone Company
W. England
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Peace Valley Telephone Co., Inc.
W. England
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Seneca Telephone Company
W. England
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Small Telephone Company Group
Brian McCartney
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Mid-Missouri Telephone Company
W. England
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Miller Telephone Company
Brian McCartney
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

MoKan Dial, Inc.
Brian McCartney
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

New Florence Telephone Company
W. England
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

New London Telephone Company
W. England
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone
Company
Sondra Morgan
312 East Capitol
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Orchard Farm Telephone Company
Brian McCartney
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Peace Valley Telephone Co., Inc.
Brian McCartney
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Seneca Telephone Company
Brian McCartney
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Small Telephone Company Group
Sondra Morgan
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Spectra Communications Group, LLC
d/b/a CenturyTel
Charles Stewart
4603 John Garry Drive, Suite 11
Columbia, MO 65203

Miller Telephone Company
Sondra Morgan
312 East Capitol
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

MoKan Dial, Inc.
Sondra Morgan
312 East Capitol
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

New Florence Telephone Company
Brian McCartney
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

New London Telephone Company
Brian McCartney
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone
Company
W. England
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Orchard Farm Telephone Company
W. England
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Ozark Telephone Company
Brian McCartney
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Peace Valley Telephone Co., Inc.
Sondra Morgan
312 East Capitol
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Seneca Telephone Company
Sondra Morgan
312 East Capitol
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Small Telephone Company Group
W. England
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Steelville Telephone Exchange, Inc.
Brian McCartney
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Steelville Telephone Exchange, Inc.
Sondra Morgan
312 East Capitol
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Steelville Telephone Exchange, Inc.
W. England
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Stoutland Telephone Company
Brian McCartney
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Stoutland Telephone Company
Sondra Morgan
312 East Capitol
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Stoutland Telephone Company
W. England
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102

U.S. Cellular
Steven Chernoff
1650 Tysons Boulevard
McLean, VA 22102

U.S. Cellular
Anne Bos
4801 Main
Suite 1000
Kansas City, MO 64112

✓ U.S. Cellular
David LaFuria
1650 Tysons Boulevard
McLean, VA 22102

U.S. Cellular
Karl Zobrist
4520 Main Street
Suite 1100
Kansas City, MO 64111

U.S. Cellular
Roger Steiner
4520 Main Street, Suite 1100
Kansas City, MO 64111

Enclosed find a certified copy of an ORDER in the above-numbered case(s).

Sincerely,



Colleen M. Dale
Secretary