

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

In the matter of the Joint Application of)
New Florence Telephone Company, Tiger)
Telephone Company, Tiger Telephone,)
Inc. and Direct Communications)
Rockland, Inc. for an Order Authorizing)
Direct Communications Rockland, Inc.,)
to Purchase or Acquire, Take or Hold all)
of the Issued and Outstanding Capital)
Stock of Tiger Telephone, Inc.)

Case No. TO-2007-0139

STAFF PLEADING

COMES NOW Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) and respectfully submits as follows:

1. On October 2, 2006, New Florence Telephone Company, Tiger Telephone Company, Tiger Telephone, Inc. and Direct Communications Rockland, Inc. (Applicants) filed, with the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission), a joint application for authority to transfer all of the stock of New Florence Telephone Company, which is owned by Tiger Telephone, Inc., to Direct Communications Rockland, Inc.

2. On November 3, 2006, the Commission issued its Order Directing Status Report. In this Order, the Commission directed Staff to file, by November 13, 2006, a Status Report of when Staff could file a Recommendation in this case.

3. Staff has sent Data Requests in this case and received responses to its first Data Requests. Staff has not yet received information regarding finalized terms and conditions of

financing of the transaction. Staff has discussed this matter with counsel for the Applicants. Staff will file an update on January 31, 2007 regarding the filing date of a Staff Recommendation in this case.

WHEREFORE, Staff respectfully submits Staff's Pleading in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Robert V. Franson

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Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, or transmitted by facsimile or electronic mail to all counsel of record this 5th day of January, 2007.

/s/ Robert V. Franson