

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

In The Matter of CenturyTel of Missouri,)
LLC's Request for Competitive)
Classification of Business Services in) Case No. _____
Certain Exchanges Pursuant to Section)
392.245.5, RSMo, as Amended by HB)
1779.)

**CENTURYTEL OF MISSOURI, LLC'S
APPLICATION FOR COMPETITIVE CLASSIFICATION**

COMES NOW CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC ("CenturyTel"), pursuant to Section 392.245.5 RSMo., as amended by HB 1779¹, and hereby requests that the Commission approve CenturyTel's Application for Competitive Classification for all its business services, other than exchange access services, in the following exchanges: (a) Ava, (b) Cabool, (c) Cassville, (d) Crane, (e) Exeter, (f) Forsyth, (g) Kimberling City, (h) Mansfield, (i) Marshfield, (j) Rockaway Beach, and (k) Seymour. Concurrent with the filing of this Application, CenturyTel is filing proposed tariffs, with thirty day effective dates, reflecting grants of the requested competitive classification. In support of its Application, CenturyTel states as follows:

1. CenturyTel is a Louisiana limited liability corporation that is duly authorized to do business in the state of Missouri. Copies of CenturyTel's Certificate of Authority to transact business in Missouri from the Missouri Secretary of State were filed in Case No. TM-2002-232, and are incorporated herein by reference pursuant to Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.060(1)(G). CenturyTel is a "local exchange

¹ All statutory references to Section 392.245.5, RSMo, refer to the revised statute pursuant to House Bill 1779 ("HB 1779"), effective August 28, 2008.

telecommunications company” and a “public utility,” and is duly authorized to provide “telecommunications service” within the State of Missouri as each of those terms is defined in Section 386.020, RSMo. 2000. Pursuant to the Commission’s *Report and Order* issued in Case No. TM-2002-232, CenturyTel is a large incumbent local exchange carrier (“ILEC”) subject to Price Cap Regulation under Section 392.245 RSMo.

2. All correspondence, communications, and orders and decisions of the Commission issued in this matter should be sent to:

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3. CenturyTel has no pending action or final unsatisfied judgments or decisions against it from any state or federal agency or court that involve customer service or rates, which action, judgment or decision has occurred within three (3) years of the date of the Application. No Missouri annual reports or assessment fees are overdue.

4. With the enactment of House Bill 1779, Section 392.245.5 (2008) now recognizes that if an ILEC faces residential competition by two non-affiliated entities then both residential services and business services shall be deemed competitive in the exchange. The CenturyTel exchanges listed above in the introductory paragraph, to-wit: (a) Ava, (b) Cabool, (c) Cassville, (d) Crane, (e) Exeter, (f) Forsyth, (g) Kimberling City,

(h) Mansfield, (i) Marshfield, (j) Rockaway Beach, and (k) Seymour, have previously been deemed competitive by the Commission for residential services² and CenturyTel now seeks competitive classification for business services as well.

Section 392.245.5 RSMo. (2008) states, in part:

5. Each telecommunications service offered to business customers, other than exchange access service, of an incumbent local exchange telecommunications company regulated under this section shall be classified as competitive in any exchange in which at least two non-affiliated entities in addition to the incumbent local exchange company are providing basic local telecommunications service to business **or residential** customers within the exchange. (emphasis added).

5. CenturyTel's Application for Competitive Classification is not a request for any price changes and the above-referenced tariffs being filed concurrently herewith (attached copies for illustrative purposes only as Exhibit A) reflect administrative changes only indicating the new competitive classification. In fact, CenturyTel acknowledges that all rates currently in effect for these exchanges will remain in effect until such time CenturyTel files a tariff reflecting a price change. CenturyTel will be required to file tariffs for any future price changes, either increases or decreases, associated with these exchanges. Furthermore, CenturyTel will be required to notify its customers of any future price increase.

WHEREFORE CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC respectfully requests the Commission to approve CenturyTel's Application for Competitive Classification and its tariffs filed concurrently herewith, pursuant to Section 392.245.5 RSMo. (2008).

² In accordance with Section 392.245.5, CenturyTel requests that the Commission take official notice of its own records concerning this matter, particularly **Case No. IO-2008-0096**, *In the Matter of the Review of the Competitive Classification of the Exchanges of CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC*; see, Staff Report, Schedules B and C, NP; Order Approving Stipulation and Agreement and Finding Continued Competition in Certain Exchanges of CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC (January 15, 2008); and **Case No. IO-2008-0243**, *In the Matter of CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC's Request for Competitive Classification Pursuant to Section 392.245.5, RSMo.*; see Order Granting Competitive Classification and Approving Tariff Sheets (February 14, 2008).

CenturyTel's Application and tariffs meet the new statutory requirements for competitive classification and should become effective in no more than 30 days.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attorneys for CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC


VERIFICATION

I, Arthur P. Martinez, Director Government Relations for CenturyTel, hereby verify and affirm that I have read the foregoing Application for Competitive Classification and that the statements contained therein are true and correct to the best of my information and belief.



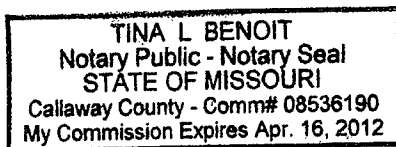
Arthur P. Martinez

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 3rd day of October, 2008.



Notary Public

My Appointment Expires:



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that on this 3rd day of October, 2008, a copy of the above and foregoing document was served via electronic mail, facsimile or U.S. Mail, postage prepaid to each of the following:

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