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

In the Matter of the Application of Otelco	)
Telecommunications LLC for Certificate of Service	)
Authority to Provide Basic Local Exchange and	) File No. XA-2011-0293
Non-Switched Local Telecommunications Exchange	)
Service in Missouri and to Classify Said Services and	)
Company as Competitive	)

## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

COMES Now the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission and states:

- 1. On March 21, 2011, Otelco Telecommunications LLC ("Applicant") applied for certificate of service authority to provide interexchange telecommunications services and for competitive classification. No tariff was filed with the Application.
- 2. In the attached Memorandum, the Staff recommends that the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) grant Applicant a certificate to provide interexchange telecommunications services. The Commission shall grant an application for a certificate of telecommunications service authority upon a finding that the grant of authority is in the public interest. §§ 392.430 and 392.440 RSMo 2000.
- 3. Staff also recommends that the Commission classify the Applicant and the services it proposes to offer in its Application as competitive. The Commission may classify a telecommunications provider or its services as competitive if the Commission determines it is subject to sufficient competition to justify a lesser degree of regulation and that such lesser regulation is consistent with the protection of ratepayers and promotes public interest. §392.361.4. RSMo Supp. 2009. A majority of the services a competitive company provides must be classified as competitive. §392.361.3. RSMo Supp. 2009.

- 4. The Staff recommends that the "standard" waivers, listed below, be granted, as required by §392.420 RSMo. The Company shall list the waivers in its tariff as long as they are effective.
  - 4 CSR 240-3.550 (4) and (5)(A) Quality of service reports
  - 4 CSR 240-10.020 Depreciation Records
  - 4 CSR 240-30.040 Uniform System of Accounts
  - 4 CSR 240-32.060 Engineering and maintenance
  - 4 CSR 240-32.070 Quality of Service
  - 4 CSR 240-32.080 Service objectives and surveillance levels
  - 4 CSR 240-33.040(1-3) and (5-10) Billing and payment standards
  - 4 CSR 240-33.045 Clear identification and placement of charges on bills
  - 4 CSR 240-33.080(1) Identify company name and toll-free number on bills
  - 4 CSR 240-33.130(1), (4) and (5) Operator service requirements
  - 392.210.2 Accounting requirements (system of accounts)
  - 392.240.1 Reasonableness of rates
  - 392.270 Accounting requirements (valuation of property)
  - 392.280 Accounting requirements (depreciation rates/accounts)
  - 392.290 Issuance of stocks, bonds and other indebtedness
  - 392.300 Transfer of property and ownership of stock
  - 392.310 Approval of issuing stocks, bonds and other indebtedness
  - 392.320 Certificate of Commission to be recorded-stock dividends
  - 392.330 Accounting requirements (proceeds of sales of stock, bonds, notes, etc.)
  - 392.340 Company reorganization
- 5. The Staff further recommends that the Commission state in its order that, pursuant to Section 392.410, the authority conferred by the certificate of service authority shall be null and void unless it is exercised within one year of its issuance.
- 6. The Applicant is not delinquent in filing an annual report, paying the PSC assessment, MoUSF, and Relay Missouri.

WHEREFORE, Staff recommends that the Commission grant Otelco Telecommunications LLC a certificate of service authority to provide interexchange telecommunications services, grant it the requested competitive classification, and grant the standard waivers listed above.

Respectfully submitted,

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## **Certificate of Service**

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile or electronically mailed to all counsel of record this  $28^{th}$  day of April, 2011.