

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

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|---|---|----------------|
| In the matter of the Application of |) | |
| CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC |) | |
| for approval of its Interconnection and |) | Case No. _____ |
| Reciprocal Compensation Agreement with |) | |
| Dobson Cellular Systems, Inc. |) | |
| under 47 U.S.C. § 252. |) | |

**APPLICATION OF CENTURYTEL OF MISSOURI, LLC
FOR APPROVAL OF INTERCONNECTION AND RECIPROCAL
COMPENSATION AGREEMENT WITH DOBSON CELLULAR SYSTEMS, INC.**

COMES NOW CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC ("CenturyTel") and hereby applies for approval by the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") of the accompanying Interconnection and Reciprocal Compensation Agreement voluntarily entered into by CenturyTel and Dobson Cellular Systems, Inc. ("Dobson"), pursuant to the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the "Act") under 47 U.S.C. § 252(e).

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, *In the Matter of the Joint Application of GTE Midwest, Inc., d/b/a Verizon Midwest and CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC for 1) Authority to Transfer and Acquire Part of Verizon Midwest's Franchise, Facilities and System Located in the State of Missouri; 2) For Issuance of Certificate of Service Authority to CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC; 3) To Designate CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC as Subject to Regulation as a Price Cap Company; and 4) To Designate CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC as a Telecommunications Carrier Eligible to Receive Federal Universal Service*

Support, and are incorporated herein by reference pursuant to Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.060(1)(G). Pursuant to the Commission's *Report and Order* issued in Case No. TM-2002-232, CenturyTel provides basic local and interexchange telecommunications services in Missouri.

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

Larry W. DORITY
FISCHER & DORITY, P.C.
101 Madison, Suite 400
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
Telephone: (573) 636-6758
Facsimile: (573) 636-0383

3. CenturyTel has no pending action or final unsatisfied judgments or decisions against it from any state or federal agency or court which 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.

In support of this Application, CenturyTel states the following:

I. AGREEMENT REACHED

CenturyTel presents to this Commission for approval the Interconnection and Reciprocal Compensation Agreement Between CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC and Dobson Cellular Systems, Inc. ("Agreement") that was negotiated and executed pursuant to the terms of the Act. Following good faith negotiations to address all of the complex issues involved in such an agreement, the parties signed the Agreement on April 13, 2004, and hereby file the Agreement, together with two attachments incorporated therein. There are no outstanding issues between CenturyTel and Dobson that need the assistance of mediation or arbitration.

II. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL

CenturyTel seeks the Commission's approval of the Agreement, consistent with the provisions of the Act. CenturyTel believes that the implementation of this Agreement complies fully with Section 252(e) of the Act because the Agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity, and does not discriminate against any telecommunications carrier. The Agreement promotes interconnectivity and diversity in providers, and will increase customer choices for telecommunications services.

CenturyTel respectfully requests that the Commission grant approval of this Agreement, without change, suspension or other delay in its implementation. This is a bilateral agreement, reached as a result of negotiation and compromise between CenturyTel and Dobson.

III. STANDARD FOR REVIEW

The statutory standards of review are set forth in Section 252(e) of the Act, which provides:

(e) APPROVAL BY STATE COMMISSION


- (1) APPROVAL REQUIRED.** – Any interconnection agreement adopted by negotiation or arbitration shall be submitted for approval to the State commission. A State commission to which an agreement is submitted shall approve or reject the agreement, with written findings as to any deficiencies.
- (2) GROUNDS FOR REJECTION.** – The State Commission may only reject –
 - (A)**an agreement (or any portion thereof) adopted by negotiation under subsection (a) if it finds that –
 - (i)** the agreement (or portion thereof) discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement; or
 - (ii)** the implementation of such agreement or portion is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity;

IV. MISSOURI LEGISLATION

The negotiated and executed Agreement is consistent with Missouri Senate Bill 507, which became effective on August 28, 1996.

WHEREFORE, CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC respectfully requests the Commission to enter an Order approving its Interconnection and Reciprocal Compensation Agreement with Dobson Cellular Systems, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,



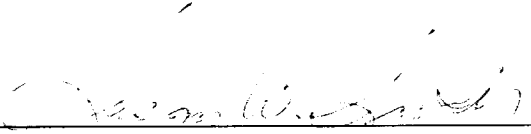
Larry W. Dority MBN 25617
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101 Madison, Suite 400
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
Telephone: (573) 636-6758
Facsimile: (573) 636-0383
E-mail: lwdority@sprintmail.com

Attorneys for CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC

VERIFICATION

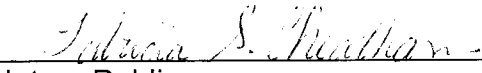
STATE OF TEXAS)
) SS
COUNTY OF BOWIE)

I, Susan W. Smith, of lawful age, being first duly sworn upon my oath, state that I am the Director of External Affairs, CenturyTel, and that I am authorized to make this verification on behalf of CenturyTel of Missouri, L.L.C.; and that I have knowledge of the matters stated in this Application; and that said matters are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.



Susan W. Smith

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 13th day of April, 2004.



Notary Public

My Commission expires:

5/29/07

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

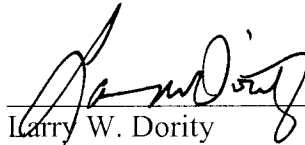
I do hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document has been hand-delivered, transmitted by e-mail or mailed, First Class, postage prepaid, this 16th day of April, 2004, to:

Office of the Public Counsel
200 Madison Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dana K. Joyce, General Counsel
Missouri Public Service Commission
200 Madison Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dobson Cellular Systems, Inc.
Attn: Interconnection Manager
270 W. Oak Street
Second Floor
Lawrenceville, GA 30045

Wilson & Bloomfield, LLP
Attn: David M. Wilson
1901 Harrison Street
Suite 1630
Oakland, CA 94612



Larry W. Dority