



24 S. Minnesota Ave., Cape Girardeau, MO 63703

September 12, 2007

Burl Haar
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Service Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

Re: Application of Big River Telephone Company, LLC to Provide Local Exchange and Interexchange Telecommunications Services

Dear Mr. Haar,

Enclosed please find a copy of Big River Telephone Company, LLC's ("Big River") Application to provide Local Exchange and Interexchange Services within the State of Minnesota and a check for the filing fee of \$570. All other documents and attachments to Big River's application have been filed via the Minnesota Public Service Commission's eFiling system.

Please note that Attachment 5, the Company's Financial Statements are considered "Trade Secret" under Minnesota law. Attachment 5 represents highly confidential and strictly proprietary information, the public disclosure of which could result in direct and immediate harm to the competitive position of Big River. As a privately owned company, Big River does not issue public financial statements and its ownership, strategic financial decisions and business plans are not matter of public record. Attachment 5 is being filed pursuant to Commission Rules as containing Trade Secrets.

Any questions or concerns regarding this filing should be directed to me at (314) 225-2203 or via email to jhowe@bigrivertelephone.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Gerard J. Howe".

Gerard J. Howe

Enclosure

Application of Big River Telephone Company, LLC

Public Version of Document

**APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY
TO PROVIDE TELEPHONE SERVICE
IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA
(CLEC / AOS / LONG DISTANCE)**



For Office Use Only:

P-

Docket #

PLEASE PRINT IN BLACK INK OR TYPE
ATTACH NON-REFUNDABLE FEE OF \$570.00 (see page 3 for details)

1. **Big River Telephone Company, LLC** **Sept 12, 2007**

<i>Applicant's Name (business or individual)</i> 24 So. Minnesota Ave	<i>Date of Application</i> (800) 455-1608
<i>Business Address</i> Gerard J. Howe	<i>Business Phone</i> (573) 651-3605
<i>Contact Person</i> 12444 Powerscourt, Suite 370 St. Louis, MO 63131	<i>FAX Number</i>
<i>Contact Person's Address</i>	<i>Street, City, State, ZIP</i>

2. Type of Certification requested by applicant:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A. Facilities-based local exchange company <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> i. Conditional certificate of authority ___ ii. Operational certificate of authority ___ B. Resale of local exchange service ___ i. Conditional certificate of authority ___ ii. Operational certificate of authority	___ C. Local niche service ___ i. Conditional certificate of authority ___ ii. Operational certificate of authority <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D. Long distance service <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> i. Conditional certificate of authority ___ ii. Operational certificate of authority
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3. Applicant is: ☐ individual Date open for business: **December 21, 2001**
 ☒ partnership Date of organization: **May 2, 2001**
 ☐ corporation* (*name the State **Delaware**)

4. Minnesota State Tax ID# _____ (if applicable)

5. Federal ID Number **43-1926991**

6. Are any officers or partners within the organization convicted felons: ☐ Yes ☒ No
 (If yes, please explain) _____

7. Will more than 50% of your revenue be derived from the provision of operator assisted long distance services? ☐ Yes ☒ No
 If yes, identify the operator service company that will be used to provide the service? _____
 (See "AOS Requirements" fact sheet)

8. List FCC licenses obtained: **None.**

9. Has any state rejected your request for authority? ☐ Yes ☒ No
 (If yes, please explain) _____

10. Have you ever been issued a "cease and desist" order? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(If yes, please explain) _____
11. Are you currently providing telephone service in Minnesota? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(If yes, please explain) _____
12. Verify that a toll free number to reach a customer service representative will be on the bill received by customers.
☒ Yes, the toll free number will be on the bill.
☐ No, the toll free number will not be on the bill.
☐ If no, how will customers know the number to call? _____
13. Provide the toll-free telephone number: (800) 828-8808

NOTE: To complete this application, you must provide the information requested on the following pages.

Big River Telephone Company, LLC
Application
Minnesota Public Utility Commission
Exhibit B


VERIFICATION

STATE OF MISSOURI)
) SS.
COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS (CD)

I, GERARD J. HOWE, being first duly sworn, depose and state that I am over the age of 21 years sound of mind, and the CEO of Big River Telephone Company, LLC, the Applicant in the subject proceeding, and that I am authorized to make this Verification on behalf of Big River Telephone Company, LLC; that I have read the foregoing application and know the contents thereof; and that the same are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.


Gerard J. Howe, CEO
Big River Telephone Company, LLC

Subscribed and sworn to before this 11th day of September,
2007.


Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 5/31/2010

ANDREW THOMAS SCHWANTNER
Notary Public - Notary Seal
STATE OF MISSOURI
Jefferson County
Commission #06893876
My Commission Expires 5 / 31 / 2010

Big River Telephone Company, LLC
Application
Minnesota Public Utility Commission
Attachment 1

Application of Big River Telephone Company, LLC

Attachment 1

Proposed Tariffs of Big River Telephone Company, LLC

Big River Telephone Company, LLC
Application
Minnesota Public Utility Commission
Attachment 2

Attachment 2

Description of Service Area

By this Application, Big River seeks the authority to provide a full range of facilities-based and resold local exchange and inter-exchange telecommunications services to and from all points in the state of Minnesota.

Big River Telephone Company, LLC
Application
Minnesota Public Utility Commission
Attachment 3

Attachment 3

Status of Interconnection Agreements

Big River intends to opt into an existing interconnection agreement with incumbent local exchange carriers. Big River is currently reviewing various agreements and will notify the incumbent of its intentions once an appropriate agreement is identified. Should Big River not find an appropriate agreement, it will notify the incumbent telephone company of its desire to negotiate a new agreement.

Attachment 4

Technology and Service Plan

Big River will offer local and inter-exchange telephone service to residential and small and medium sized businesses. Big River uses an advanced IP-based soft switch located in St. Louis, Missouri that provides customer features and functionality as well as connectivity to the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN). In addition there will be a PSTN gateway located in Minnesota for connectivity to the networks of incumbent local telephone companies.

Customers will be accessed through the broadband connections of local Cable TV operators, with whom Big River will have a contractual relationship for installation, maintenance and support. The Cable TV operator will put a device, called a Multi-Terminal Adaptor (MTA) at the customer's premise. The MTA will connect via a coaxial connection on the back of the MTA to the Cable TV network, which is also carrying voice and data traffic using IP protocol (see Figure 4-1). Also on the back of the MTA is one RJ-45 connection for the customer to connect their computer or home networking equipment. Finally, on the back of the MTA are two (2) RJ-11 connections to connect to the customer's telephone or inside wiring for two separate telephone lines. The device is AC powered with 10 hours of battery back up.



Figure 4-1

Once the call is originated by the customer via the MTA, the call will be carried via the managed IP network of the Cable TV operator to Big River's switching center, or gateway. At Big River's switching center, or gateway, the call will be converted from its IP protocol to traditional telephony signals and then delivered to its intended destination via local trunks to the incumbent local telephone company or via the Public Switched Telephone Network to its destination anywhere in the world. The reverse will work when calls are terminated to Big River's customers that are connected via the Cable TV network.

Big River Telephone Company, LLC
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Attachment 4

The MTA is installed at the customer's premise which is its intended permanent location. In fact, the address where the MTA is installed is the address that is entered into the Master Street Address Guide for E911 purposes. Customers are instructed that the device is not to be moved and sign an acceptable use policy that it will not be moved for purposes of maintaining the integrity of the E911 address information.

The company plans to offer standard foreign exchange service (FX) that would allow an end user to be assigned a telephone number from a rate center in which the end user is not physically located. However, as the Company's standard telephony offer includes unlimited domestic long distance usage; FX service is not commonly subscribed by either residential or business customers.

Services offered by the Company will be offered on a retail basis, see Tariffs No. 1 and 2.