

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

In the Matter of the Application for Approval)
of an Interconnection Agreement between)
Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone Company) **File No. IK-2024-0235**
d/b/a NEMR and Level 3 Communications, LLC)

ORDER APPROVING INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT

Issue Date: March 21, 2024

Effective Date: April 20, 2024

This order approves a negotiated Interconnection Agreement between the parties
filed by Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone Company d/b/a NEMR.

On February 23, 2024,¹ NEMR filed an application with the Commission for approval of a negotiated Interconnection Agreement (the Agreement) with Level 3 Communications, LLC (Level 3) under the provisions of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act). NEMR is an incumbent local exchange carrier. Level 3 is a competitive local exchange and interexchange carrier.

Although Level 3 is a party to the Agreement, it did not join in the application. On February 26, the Commission issued an order making Level 3 a party in this case and directing any party wishing to request a hearing to do so no later than March 11. No requests for hearing were filed.

Under Section 252(e) of the Act, any Interconnection Agreement adopted by negotiation must be submitted to the Commission for approval. The Commission may reject an Agreement if it finds that the Agreement is discriminatory or that it is not consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity.

¹ All dates refer to 2024 unless otherwise indicated.

On March 21, the Staff of the Commission (Staff) filed a recommendation. Staff recommends that the Agreement be approved and notes that the Agreement meets the limited requirements of the Act in that it is not discriminatory toward nonparties and is not against the public interest.

The Commission has considered the application, the supporting documentation, and Staff's recommendation. Based upon that review, the Commission finds that the Agreement meets the requirements of the Act in that it does not discriminate against a nonparty carrier and implementation of the Agreement is not inconsistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity.

The application represents that the applicant has not had contact with the Office of the Commission about any substantive issue connected to the filing within 150 days before filing the application. On the basis of that representation, for good cause shown, the Commission will waive application of the pre-filing notice requirements of Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1).

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The Interconnection Agreement between Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone Company d/b/a NEMR and Level 3 Communications, LLC (Level 3), filed on February 25, 2024, is approved.
2. The pre-filing notice requirements of Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1) are waived.
3. This order shall become effective on April 20, 2024.

4. This file may be closed on April 21, 2024.



BY THE COMMISSION

Nancy Dippell

Nancy Dippell
Secretary

Riley G. Fewell, Regulatory Law Judge,
by delegation of authority pursuant to
Section 386.240, RSMo 2016.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 21st day of March, 2024.

STATE OF MISSOURI

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City, Missouri, this 21st day of March 2024.



Nancy Dippell

Nancy Dippell
Secretary

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

March 21, 2024

File/Case No. IK-2024-0235

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Enclosed find a certified copy of an Order or Notice issued in the above-referenced matter(s).

Sincerely,



**Nancy Dippell
Secretary**

Recipients listed above with a valid e-mail address will receive electronic service. Recipients without a valid e-mail address will receive paper service.