

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

In the Matter of the Application for Approval of)	
Level 3 Communications, LLC's Amendment to)	
Interconnection Agreement with Oregon Farmers)	<u>File No. TK-2025-0195</u>
Mutual Telephone Company)	

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Staff"),
by and through counsel, and submits its Recommendation as follows:

1. On January 2, 2025, pursuant to Commission Rules 20 CSR 4240-2.060 and 20 CSR 4240-28.013(2)(A), Level 3 Communications, LLC ("Level 3"), filed with the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") an *Application for Approval of an Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement* ("Application") between itself and Oregon Farmers Mutual Telephone Company ("Oregon Farmers Mutual"), under the provisions of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996.¹

2. In the Application, Level 3 asks the Commission to:

A. Approve the amendment to *The Interconnection Agreement Between Level 3 Communications, LLC and Oregon Farmer's Mutual Telephone Company* ("Interconnection Agreement"); and

B. Waive the 60-day notice requirement pursuant to Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1)(D).

3. On January 17, 2025, the Commission issued an Order:
1). adding Oregon Farmers Mutual as a party to this case; 2). directing parties wishing to

¹ The portion of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 which is relevant to this case is codified under 47 U.S.C. 252.

intervene to do so by February 1, 2025; 3). directing the Data Center to send a copy of the Order to all interexchange and local exchange telecommunications companies; and 4). directing Staff to file a recommendation by February 16, 2025.

4. A copy of the amendment was filed with this Application. Oregon Farmers Mutual is an incumbent local exchange carrier. Level 3 is a competitive local exchange and interexchange carrier. No entities have intervened or requested a hearing. Neither Oregon Farmers Mutual nor Level 3 are delinquent in any required filings with the Commission.

5. 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2) (1996) provides that a state commission may reject a negotiated interconnection agreement (or any portion thereof) only if it discriminates against a telecommunications carrier that is not a party to the agreement, or the agreement's (or a portion thereof) implementation is inconsistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity. In lieu of a Memorandum, Staff hereby states that the amendment to the Interconnection Agreement does not discriminate against telecommunications carriers not a party to it, nor is its implementation inconsistent with the public interest, convenience or necessity. Therefore, Staff recommends that the Commission approve the amendment to the Interconnection Agreement.

6. Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1) states: "[a]ny person that intends to file a case shall file a notice with the secretary of the commission a minimum of sixty (60) days prior to filing such case." However, a party may request that this requirement be waived for good cause.² Staff asserts good cause is present in this case under Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1)(D) because Level 3 provided a verified

² Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1)(D).

declaration with this application that Level 3 has not had communications with the Commission as defined in the beforementioned Commission Rule. As such, Staff recommends that the Commission waive the 60-day notice requirement.

WHEREFORE, Staff recommends the Commission approve the Application and grant such other and further relief as the Commission finds appropriate under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Andrea B. Hansen

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been transmitted by electronic mail to counsel of record this 13th day of February, 2025.

/s/ Andrea B. Hansen