

# BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of Southwestern Bell )  
Telephone Company, d/b/a AT&T Missouri, for )  
Approval of an Amendment to an Interconnection ) **File No. IK-2020-0232**  
Agreement Under the Telecommunications Act of )  
1996 with CenturyLink Communications, LLC )

## ORDER APPROVING AMENDMENT TO INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT

Issue Date: February 26, 2020

Effective Date: March 27, 2020

This order approves an amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between the parties filed by Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, d/b/a AT&T Missouri (AT&T Missouri).

On February 3, 2020, AT&T Missouri filed an application with the Commission for approval of an amendment to its negotiated Interconnection Agreement with CenturyLink Communications, LLC (CenturyLink Communications). AT&T Missouri and CenturyLink Communications currently have a Commission-approved Interconnection Agreement between them. In the current application, the parties have agreed to amend the Interconnection Agreement. The amendments were filed pursuant to Section 252(e)(1) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.<sup>1</sup> AT&T Missouri is certificated with the Commission as an incumbent local exchange carrier. CenturyLink Communications is certificated with the Commission as a competitive local exchange carrier and an interexchange carrier.

Although CenturyLink Communications is a party to the Agreement, it did not join in the application. On February 6, 2020, the Commission issued an order making

CenturyLink Communications a party in this case and directing any party wishing to request a hearing to do so no later than February 20, 2020. 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.

On February 26, 2020, the Staff of the Commission filed a memorandum and recommendation. Staff recommends that the amendments to 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. Staff recommends that the Commission direct the parties to submit any further amendments to the Commission for approval.

### **Findings of Fact**

The Commission has considered the application, the supporting documentation, and Staff's verified recommendation. Based upon that review, the Commission finds that the Agreement as amended meets the requirements of the Act in that it does not discriminate against a nonparty carrier and implementation of the Agreement as amended is not inconsistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity. The Commission finds that approval of the Agreement as amended shall be conditioned upon the parties submitting any further amendments to the Commission for approval pursuant to the procedure set out below.

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<sup>1</sup> See 47 U.S.C. § 251, *et seq.*

### **Amendment Procedure**

The Commission has a duty to review all interconnection agreements, whether arrived at through negotiation or arbitration, as mandated by the Act.<sup>2</sup> In order for the Commission's role of review and approval to be effective, the Commission must also review and approve or recognize amendments to these agreements. The Commission has a further duty to make a copy of every interconnection agreement available for public inspection.<sup>3</sup>

The parties to each interconnection agreement must maintain a complete and current copy of the agreement, together with all amendments, in the Commission's offices. Any proposed amendment must be submitted pursuant to Commission rules 20 CSR 4240-28.020(5) and 20 CSR 4240-28.080.

### **Conclusions of Law**

The Commission, under the provisions of Section 252(e)(1) of the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996,<sup>4</sup> is required to review negotiated interconnection agreements. It may only reject a negotiated agreement upon a finding that its implementation would be discriminatory to a nonparty or inconsistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity.<sup>5</sup> Based upon its review of the amendments to the Agreement between AT&T Missouri and CenturyLink Communications and its findings of fact, the Commission concludes that the Agreement as amended is neither discriminatory nor inconsistent with the public interest and shall be approved.

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<sup>2</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 252.

<sup>3</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 252(h).

<sup>4</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(1).

<sup>5</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2)(A).

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:**

1. The amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, d/b/a AT&T Missouri and CenturyLink Communications, LLC , filed on February 3, 2020, is approved.
2. Any changes or amendments to this Agreement shall be submitted in compliance with 4 CSR 240-28.020(5) and 4 CSR 240-28.080.
3. This order shall become effective on March 27, 2020.
4. This file may be closed on March 28, 2020.



**BY THE COMMISSION**

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Morris L. Woodruff".

Morris L. Woodruff  
Secretary

Morris L. Woodruff, Chief Regulatory Law Judge, by delegation of authority pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2016.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,  
on this 26th day of February, 2020.

**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 26<sup>th</sup> day of February 2020.**



  
**Morris L. Woodruff**  
**Secretary**

**MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**February 26, 2020**

**File/Case No. IK-2020-0232**

**Missouri Public Service  
Commission**

Staff Counsel Department  
200 Madison Street, Suite 800  
P.O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
staffcounsel@psc.mo.gov

**Office of the Public Counsel**

Marc Poston  
200 Madison Street, Suite 650  
P.O. Box 2230  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
opc@psc.mo.gov

**AT&T Missouri**

Leo J Bub  
1010 Pine Street, Room 19E-D-01  
St. Louis, MO 63101  
leo.bub@att.com

**CenturyLink Communications,  
LLC**

Legal Department  
100 CenturyLink Drive  
Monroe, LA 71203

**Missouri Public Service  
Commission**

Ron Irving  
200 Madison Street, Suite 800  
P.O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
Ron.Irving@psc.mo.gov

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

**Sincerely,**



**Morris L. Woodruff  
Secretary**

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