

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

In the Matter of the Application for Approval of an)
Interconnection Agreement between Chariton Valley)
Telephone Corporation and Teleport Communications)
America, LLC, Pursuant to Telecommunications Act)
of 1996)

File No. IK-2021-0065

ORDER APPROVING INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT

Issue Date: October 21, 2020

Effective Date: November 20, 2020

This order approves an Interconnection Agreement between the parties filed by Chariton Valley Telephone Corporation (Chariton Valley).

On September 9, 2020, Chariton Valley filed an application with the Commission for approval of an adoption of the Interconnection Agreement between Chariton Valley and Teleport Communications America, LLC (Teleport Communications) under the provisions of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. Chariton Valley is certificated with the Commission as an incumbent local exchange and interexchange carrier. Teleport Communications is certificated with the Commission as a competitive local exchange and interexchange carrier.

Although Teleport Communications is a party to the Agreement, it did not join in the application. On September 18, 2020, the Commission issued an order making Teleport Communications a party in this case and directing any party wishing to request a hearing to do so no later than October 3, 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 October 16, 2020, the Staff of the Commission 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. Staff recommends that the Commission direct the parties to submit any amendments to the Commission for approval.

Findings of Fact

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 Commission finds that approval of the Agreement shall be conditioned upon the parties submitting any amendments to the Commission for approval pursuant to the procedure set out below.

Amendment Procedure

The Commission has a duty to review all Interconnection Agreements, whether arrived at through negotiation or arbitration, as mandated by the Act.¹ 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

¹ 47 U.S.C. § 252.

further duty to make a copy of every Interconnection Agreement available for public inspection.²

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 1996,³ 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.⁴ Based upon its review of the Agreement between Chariton Valley and Teleport Communications and its findings of fact, the Commission concludes that the Agreement is neither discriminatory nor inconsistent with the public interest and shall be approved.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The Interconnection Agreement between Chariton Valley and Teleport Communications, filed on September 9, 2020, is approved.
2. Any changes or amendments to this Agreement shall be submitted in compliance with 20 CSR 4240-28.020(5) and 20 CSR 4240-28.080.

² 47 U.S.C. § 252(h).

³ 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(1).

⁴ 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2)(A).

3. This order shall become effective on November 20, 2020.
4. This file may be closed on November 21, 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 21st day of October, 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 21st day of October, 2020.**




Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

October 21, 2020

File/Case No. IK-2021-0065

**Missouri Public Service
Commission**

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

Office of the Public Counsel

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

**Chariton Valley Telephone
Corporation**

Craig S Johnson
2612 Schellridge Rd
Jefferson City, MO 65109
cj@cjlaw.com

**Missouri Public Service
Commission**

Casi Aslin
200 Madison Street, Suite 800
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
casi.aslin@psc.mo.gov

**Teleport Communications
America, LLC**

Legal Department
Room 3B111H
1 AT&T Way
Bedminster, NJ 07921

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Morris L. Woodruff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Morris" being the most prominent.

**Morris L. Woodruff
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.