

In the matter of the Application of)
CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC)
for approval of its Interconnection, Resale) Case No. _____
and Unbundling Agreement with Missouri)
Telecom, Inc. under 47 U.S.C. § 252.)

COMES NOW CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC ("CenturyTel") and hereby applies for approval by the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") of the accompanying Interconnection, Resale and Unbundling Agreement voluntarily entered into by CenturyTel and Missouri Telecom, Inc. ("MTI"), pursuant to the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the "Act") under 47 U.S.C. § 252(e).

- CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC
100 CenturyTel Drive
Monroe, Louisiana 71203
Telephone: (318) 388-9000
Facsimile: (318) 388-9072

2. CenturyTel is a Louisiana limited liability corporation that is duly authorized to do business in the state of Missouri. Copies of CenturyTel's Certificate of Authority to transact business in Missouri from the Missouri Secretary of State were filed in Case No. TM-2002-232, *In the Matter of the Joint Application of GTE Midwest, Inc., d/b/a Verizon Midwest and CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC for 1) Authority to Transfer and Acquire Part of Verizon Midwest's*

Franchise, Facilities and System Located in the State of Missouri; 2) For Issuance of Certificate of Service Authority to CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC; 3) To Designate CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC as Subject to Regulation as a Price Cap Company; and 4) To Designate CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC as a Telecommunications Carrier Eligible to Receive Federal Universal Service Support, and are incorporated herein by reference pursuant to Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.060(1)(G). Pursuant to the Commission's *Report and Order* issued in Case No. TM-2002-232, CenturyTel provides basic local and interexchange telecommunications services in Missouri. All correspondence, communications, and orders and decisions of the Commission issued in this matter should be sent to:

Larry W. DORITY
FISCHER & DORITY, P.C.
101 Madison, Suite 400
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
Telephone: (573) 636-6758
Facsimile: (573) 636-0383

3. MTI is a Missouri certificated competitive basic local exchange carrier (Case No. TA-99-549, issued September 21, 1999).

4. CenturyTel has no pending action or final unsatisfied judgments or decisions against it from any state or federal agency or court which involve customer service or rates, which action, judgment or decision has occurred within three (3) years of the date of the Application. No Missouri annual reports or assessment fees are overdue.

In support of this Application, CenturyTel states the following:

I. RESALE AGREEMENT REACHED

CenturyTel presents to this Commission for approval the Interconnection, Resale and Unbundling Agreement Between CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC and Missouri Telecom, Inc. (“Agreement”) that was negotiated and executed pursuant to the terms of the Act. Following good faith negotiations to address all of the complex issues involved in such an agreement, the parties signed the Agreement on February 28, 2003, and hereby file the Agreement, together with five (5) appendices incorporated therein. There are no outstanding issues between CenturyTel and MTI that need the assistance of mediation or arbitration.

II. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL

CenturyTel seeks the Commission's approval of the Agreement, consistent with the provisions of the Act. CenturyTel believes that the implementation of this Agreement complies fully with Section 252(e) of the Act because the Agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity, and does not discriminate against any telecommunications carrier. The Agreement promotes interconnectivity and diversity in providers, and will increase customer choices for telecommunications services.

CenturyTel respectfully requests that the Commission grant approval of this Agreement, without change, suspension or other delay in its implementation. This is a bilateral agreement, reached as a result of negotiation and compromise between CenturyTel and MTI.

III. STANDARD FOR REVIEW

The statutory standards of review are set forth in Section 252(e) of the Act, which provides:

(e) APPROVAL BY STATE COMMISSION


- (1) APPROVAL REQUIRED. – Any interconnection agreement adopted by negotiation or arbitration shall be submitted for approval to the State commission. A State commission to which an agreement is submitted shall approve or reject the agreement, with written findings as to any deficiencies.
- (2) GROUNDS FOR REJECTION. – The State Commission may only reject –
 - (A) an agreement (or any portion thereof) adopted by negotiation under subsection (a) if it finds that –
 - (i) the agreement (or portion thereof) discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement; or
 - (ii) the implementation of such agreement or portion is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity;

IV. MISSOURI LEGISLATION

The negotiated and executed Agreement is consistent with Missouri Senate Bill 507, which became effective on August 28, 1996.

WHEREFORE, CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC respectfully requests the Commission to enter an Order approving its Interconnection, Resale and Unbundling Agreement with Missouri Telecom, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,



Larry W. Dority, Esq. MBN 25617
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Attorneys for CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC

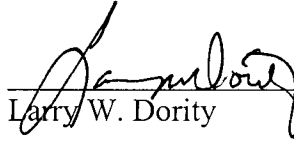
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I do hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document has been hand-delivered, transmitted by e-mail or mailed, First Class, postage prepaid, this 25th day of March, 2003, to:

Office of the Public Counsel
P.O. Box 7800
Jefferson City MO 65102

Dana K. Joyce
General Counsel
Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City MO 65102

Kevin Wormington, VP-Operations
Missouri Telecom, Inc.
515 East Cleveland, Suite C
Monett, MO 65708

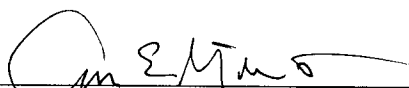


Larry W. Dority

AFFIDAVIT OF VERIFICATION

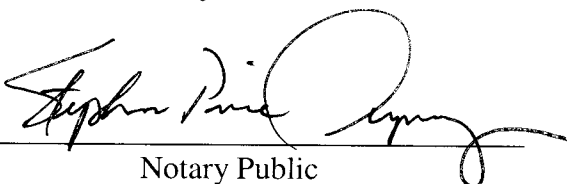
STATE OF LOUISIANA)
) ss.
PARISH OF OUACHITA)

Guy Miller, being first duly sworn, on his oath and in his capacity as Director of Carrier Relations, CenturyTel, states that he is authorized to make this verification on behalf of CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC; that he has knowledge of the matters stated in this Application; and that said matters are true and correct to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.



Guy Miller

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 18th day of March, 2003.



Notary Public

My Commission Expires: AT DEATH