

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

Application for Approval of)	
Interconnection Agreement between)	
Chariton Valley Telephone Corporation)	File No. _____
and Teleport Communications America)	
LLC pursuant to Sections 251 and 252)	
of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.)	

**APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF AN INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT
BETWEEN CHARITON VALLEY TELEPHONE CORPORATION AND
TELEPORT COMMUNICATIONS AMERICA, LLC PURSUANT TO THE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996**

COMES NOW Chariton Valley Telephone Corporation (“Chariton Valley”) and hereby files its Request for Approval of an Agreement between Chariton Valley and Teleport Communications America, LLC (“TCA”), LLC (“Level 3”) pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (“the Act”), and pursuant to 20 CSR 4240-28.013 . In support of this application, Chariton Valley states to the Commission:

1. Chariton Valley is a small rural incumbent local exchange carrier operating in the state of Missouri.
2. Chariton Valley is a Missouri corporation in good standing with the Missouri Secretary of State.
3. Correspondence, orders, and decisions in this matter directed to Chariton Valley should be addressed to:

Kirby Underberg, CEO
Chariton Valley Telephone Corp.

1213 E. Briggs Drive
Macon, MO 63552
(660) 395-9600
kunderberg@charitonvalley.com

and to:

Craig S. Johnson
Johnson and Sporleder, LLP
2420 Hyde Park Road, Suite C
Jefferson City, MO 65109
cj@cjaslaw.com
(573) 659-8734

4. TCA is a competitive local exchange company operating in Missouri.
5. Correspondence, orders, and decision in this matter directed to TCA

should be addressed to:

David Handel
Director Sourcing Operations
Teleport Communicatioins America, LLC
One AT&T Way, Room 4A105
Bedminster, NJ 07921
(908) 234-3707
david.handal@att.com

I. AGREEMENT REACHED

6. On August 25, 2020, after good faith negotiations, Chariton Valley and TCA executed an Interconnection Agreement (“Agreement”) pursuant to the terms of the Act (Attachment I). This is a bilateral agreement, reached as a result of negotiations and compromise between the parties.

7. Pursuant to Section 252 of the Telecommunications Act, Chariton Valley hereby submits this Agreement for approval by the Commission.

8. The Agreement complies with Section 252(e) of the Act. The Agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity and does not

discriminate against any telecommunications carrier. The Agreement consists of 31 pages, consecutively numbered, and separately numbered attachments. There are no outstanding issues between Chariton Valley and TCA that need the assistance of mediation or arbitration.

II. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL

9. Chariton Valley respectfully requests that the Commission approve this agreement, without change, suspension or delay in its implementation.

III. COMMISSION AUTHORITY

10. Under the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (“the Act”), the Commission has the authority to grant the relief requested by Chariton Valley.

Specifically, section 252 (a) of the act provides:

(a) Agreements Arrived at Through Negotiations

(1) Voluntary Negotiations - upon receiving a request for interconnection, services, or network elements pursuant to section 251, an incumbent local exchange carrier may negotiate and enter into a binding agreement with requesting telecommunications carrier or carriers without regard to the standards set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 251. The agreement shall include a detailed schedule of itemized charges for interconnection in each service or network element included in the agreement. The agreement, including any interconnection agreement negotiated before the date of enactment of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, shall be submitted to the state commission under subsection (e) of this section.

IV. STANDARD OF REVIEW

11. Under Section 252 of the Act, the Commission has the authority to approve this negotiated agreement. The Commission may reject an agreement if it is discriminatory to a nonparty or is inconsistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity. Section 252(e)(2) of the act provides as follows:

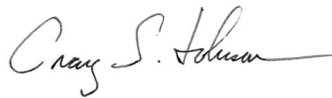
Grounds for Rejection -- The State Commission may only reject --

- (A) an agreement (or any portion thereof) adopted by negotiation under section (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;

12. The Agreement between Chariton Valley and TCA satisfies these standards.

V. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Chariton Valley respectfully requests the Commission to issue an order that approves the Interconnection Agreement between Chariton Valley and TCA.



Craig S. Johnson
Johnson & Sporleder, LLP
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Jefferson City, MO 65109
Phone: (573) 659-8734
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E-mail: cj@cjaslaw.com
Counsel, Chariton Valley

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of this pleading was mailed to the attorneys for Staff, OPC, and to Teleport Communications America, LLC by electronic mail this 9th day of September, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig S. Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Craig S. Johnson