

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

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| In the Matter of the Interconnection Agreement by |) | |
| and between Midwest Data Center, Inc. and Embarq |) | |
| Missouri, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink Pursuant to |) | <u>File No. IK-2015-0163</u> |
| Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications |) | |
| Act of 1996 |) | |

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission and submits its Recommendation as follows:

1. On September 10, 2014, Embarq Missouri, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink ("Embarq") filed with the Missouri Public Service Commission its Application for Approval of an Interconnection Agreement executed between it and Midwest Data Center, Inc. ("Midwest").

2. 47 USC 252(e)(2) provides that a state commission may only reject an interconnection agreement adopted by negotiation if the agreement discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to it or its implementation is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.

3. In lieu of a Memorandum, Staff hereby states that the Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement does not discriminate against telecommunications carriers not parties to it, nor is its implementation inconsistent with the public interest, convenience or necessity. A copy of the Amendment was filed with the Application. Embarq is certificated with the Commission as an incumbent local exchange telecommunications company. Midwest is certificated as a competitive local exchange telecommunications company.

WHEREFORE, Staff recommends the Commission approve the Application and direct the parties to submit to the Commission any modifications or amendments to the Interconnection Agreement.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile or electronically mailed to all counsel of record this 13th day of January, 2015.

