

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

In the Matter of the Application for Approval of an)	
Interconnection Agreement between Ozark)	
Telephone Company d/b/a Rally Networks and)	<u>File No. IK-2024-0018</u>
Teleport Communications America, LLC)	

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff), by and through counsel, and submits its Recommendation as follows:

1. On July 26, 2023, Ozark Telephone Company d/b/a Rally Networks (“Company”), filed with the Missouri Public Service Commission an *Application for Approval of a Negotiated Interconnection Agreement* (“Agreement”) between itself and Teleport Communications America, LLC (“Teleport”), under the provisions of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996.

2. On August 4, 2023, the Commission ordered Teleport be made a party to the case. The Commission further ordered that any party could intervene or request a hearing by no later than August 21, 2023, and that Staff shall file its recommendation by September 25, 2023.

3. 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2) (1996) provides that a state commission may reject an interconnection agreement adopted by negotiation only 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.

4. In lieu of a Memorandum, Staff hereby states that the Interconnection Agreement does not discriminate against telecommunications carriers not a party to it, nor is its implementation inconsistent with the public interest, convenience or necessity.

A copy of the Agreement was filed with the Application. Company is an incumbent local exchange carrier. Teleport is a competitive local exchange and interexchange carrier. No entities have intervened or requested a hearing. Neither the Company nor Teleport are delinquent in any required filings with the Commission.

WHEREFORE, Staff recommends the Commission approve the Application and grant such other and further relief as the Commission finds appropriate under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ J. Scott Stacey

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been transmitted by electronic mail to counsel of record on this 22nd day of August, 2023.

/s/ J. Scott Stacey