

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

In the Matter of BPS Telephone Company,)
Citizens Telephone Company, Craw-Kan)
Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Ellington)
Telephone Company, Farber Telephone)
Company, Fidelity Communications Services)
I, Inc., Fidelity Telephone Company,)
Goodman Telephone Company, Inc., Granby)
Telephone Company, Grand River Mutual)
Telephone Corporation d/b/a GRM Networks,)
Green Hills Cellular Telephone d/b/a Green)
Hills Telecommunications Services, Green Hills)
Telephone Corporation, Holway Telephone)
Company d/b/a American Broadband, Iamo)
Telephone Company, Kingdom Telephone)
Company, KLM Telephone Company d/b/a)
American Broadband, Lathrop Telephone)
Company d/b/a LTC Networks, Le-Ru)
Telephone Company, Mark Twain)
Communications Company, Mark Twain Rural)
Telephone Company, McDonald County)
Telephone Company, Miller Telephone Company,)
New Florence Telephone Company, New London)
Telephone Company, Northeast Missouri Rural)
Telephone Company, Orchard Farm Telephone)
Company, The Oregon Farmers Mutual Telephone)
Company, Ozark Telephone Company, Peace)
Valley Telephone Company, Inc., Rock Port)
Telephone Company, Seneca Telephone)
Company, Steelville Telephone Exchange,)
Inc., The Stoutland Telephone Company, Alma)
Communications Company, d/b/a Alma Telephone)
Company, Chariton Valley Telecom Corporation,)
Chariton Valley Telephone Corporation, Choctaw)
Telephone Company, MoKan Dial, Inc., Otelco)
Mid-Missouri, LLC, FairPoint Communications)
Missouri, Inc. d/b/a FairPoint Communications,)
Windstream Missouri, LLC and Windstream Iowa)
Communications, LLC, Embarq Missouri, Inc.)
d/b/a CenturyLink, CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC)
d/b/a CenturyLink, Spectra Communications)
Group, LLC d/b/a CenturyLink, CenturyTel of)
Northwest Arkansas, LLC d/b/a CenturyLink, and)

Case No. _____

Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, d/b/a)
AT&T Missouri)
)
Application for)
Temporary Waiver of the 4 CSR 240-31.120(1)(A))
State Lifeline Program Eligibility Criteria)

APPLICATION FOR WAIVER

The companies listed above (“Applicants”) respectfully request¹ the Commission temporarily waive the 4 CSR 240-31.120(1)(A)(4, 6 and 7) state Lifeline Program eligibility criteria when the FCC’s upcoming changes to the federal Lifeline Program eligibility criteria become effective, so that only those state requirements consistent with the *revised* federal criteria will apply until the Commission updates 4 CSR 240-31.120(1)(A) to again mirror the federal criteria. Applicants also request the Commission waive, if necessary, the application of 4 CSR 240-31.130 (2)(C), which requires an Eligible Telecommunications Company (“ETC”) to provide service upon reasonable request, when the Lifeline subscriber’s service is subject to a “port freeze” under the FCC’s new rules.

In support of this filing, Applicants state:

1. Background. The Commission in Case No. TO-98-329 established the Missouri Universal Service Fund to provide assistance to low-income customers and disabled customers. Based on a recommendation from Staff, with input from the telecommunications industry, the Commission designed the program to implement assistance to such customers under both the

¹ Applicants make this request pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.060(4) (applications for variances or waivers from commission rules) and 4 CSR 240-31.130(4)(D), which states:

The commission may grant a waiver of, or variance from any provision of 4 CSR 240-31.010 through 4 CSR 240-31.130 for good cause, upon request or upon its own motion. A party wishing to obtain a waiver or variance shall file an application with the commission setting out the reason for its request.

federal Universal Service Fund and the Missouri state Universal Service Fund, and in a manner to maximize the federal Universal Service support for the services.²

2. Missouri Commission rule 4 CSR 240-31.120(1)(A) sets out the criteria for customers to establish eligibility for discounted telephone service, which applies to both the state and federal programs:

4 CSR 240-31.120 Lifeline Program and Disabled Program

PURPOSE: This proposed rule identifies requirements for participating in the Lifeline and/or Disabled programs. Any ETC participating in the Lifeline program must comply with these rules, including an ETC solely receiving federal Lifeline support.

(1) Lifeline and Disabled Programs Described.

(A) The Lifeline Program eligibility criteria include participation in:

1. MO HealthNet (formerly Medicaid) or any program pursuant to 42 U.S.C. sections 1396-1396v;
2. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (Food Stamps) or any program pursuant to 7 U.S.C. section 51;
3. Supplemental Security Income, or any program pursuant to 42 U.S.C. section 7;
4. Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) or any program pursuant to U.S.C. section 94;
5. Federal Public Housing Assistance (section 8) or any program pursuant to 42 U.S.C. section 8;
6. National School Free Lunch Program pursuant to 42 U.S.C. section 13;
7. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families pursuant to 42 U.S.C. section 7(IV); or
8. A consumer's household income is at or below one hundred thirty-five percent (135%) of the federal poverty level; and
9. Any other eligibility criteria as determined by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to be applicable in all states or as identified in FCC rule 47 CFR 54.409.

(B) The Lifeline program is funded by the FUSF and the MoUSF. An ETC participating in the Lifeline program shall comply with this rule even if it solely receives only federal support.

² In Re Missouri Universal Serv. Fund, TO-98-329, 2002 WL 1396167 (Mar. 31, 2002).

The Missouri rules were consistent with the FCC's Lifeline program eligibility rules (set out in Title 47, Part 54, Subpart E of the FCC's rules) that had been in effect for many years:

§ 54.409 Consumer qualification for Lifeline.

(a) To constitute a qualifying low-income consumer:

- (1) A consumer's household income as defined in § 54.400(f) must be at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a household of that size; or
- (2) The consumer, one or more of the consumer's dependents, or the consumer's household must receive benefits from one of the following federal assistance programs: Medicaid; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; Supplemental Security Income; Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8); Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program; National School Lunch Program's free lunch program; or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families;³

3. Lifeline Eligibility Criteria Changes. On March 31, 2016, the FCC adopted the *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization Order*⁴ establishing streamlined, uniform national consumer eligibility criteria for the federal Lifeline program that states are not permitted to vary. There, the FCC eliminated the following programs from its long-standing criteria eligibility list:

- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program (NSLP)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- State-specific program-based criteria⁵

That order also added the Veterans and Survivors Pension benefit program to its list of criteria for Lifeline program qualification,⁶ and retained the 135% Federal Poverty Guidelines income

³ 47 C.F.R. § 54.409.

⁴ Third Report and Order, Further Report and Order, and Order on Reconsideration, *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization*, 31 FCC Rcd 3962, 81 FR 33025, 81 FR 45973, FCC 16 – 38, paras. 188-204 and 212-216 (released April 27, 2016) (*Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization Order*).

⁵ The FCC, however, allowed states to apply state-specific criteria for state Lifeline discounts. *Id.*, para. 215.

⁶ *Id.*, para. 167, where the FCC stated:

Beginning on the later of December 1, 2016 or 60 days following PRA approval, low-income households who qualify for and receive SNAP, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income ("SSI"), Federal Public Housing Assistance ("FPHA"), or the Veterans Pension benefit will be eligible for enrollment in the Lifeline program. We amend our rules to remove Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program ("LIHEAP"); National School Lunch Program's free lunch program ("NSLP"); and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("TANF") from the default federal assistance eligibility for Lifeline. Finally, we do not modify the income-based eligibility nor the Tribal eligibility criteria. *See also* paras. 173-176.

eligibility criterion.⁷ Going forward, states will be permitted to use *only* the FCC's eligibility criteria to qualify consumers for federal Lifeline benefits in their states.

4. With the FCC's upcoming change to its list of programs under which consumers can qualify for federal Lifeline service, Missouri's state criteria that utilizes *existing* federal criteria will not conform to the *revised* federal criteria going forward. Since the Commission's eligibility rules on their face apply to both the federal and state Lifeline programs, those rules will be incorrect with respect to the federal program once the FCC's new rules go into effect. Also, unless the Commission's eligibility rules are conformed to the federal program's rules, this mismatch will mean that some consumers will qualify for state but not federal discounts (using LIHEAP, NSLP or TANF participation); some consumers will be eligible only for federal but not state Lifeline benefits (relying on Veterans and Survivors Pension benefit participation); and some consumers will be eligible for both (e.g., using SNAP participation). Telecommunications companies would thereby be required to provide different Lifeline discounts to consumers, depending on whether they qualified under the federal, state-specific criteria, or both, which would be confusing to customers and administratively burdensome to implement and maintain.

5. Commission Staff has been working collaboratively with the Missouri telecommunications industry to update the Commission's Lifeline rules, including revisions to realign state eligibility criteria with the newly revised federal criteria. This process, however, will take time to complete.

6. In the interim, Applicants request the Commission temporarily waive the 4 CSR 240-31.120(1)(A)(4, 6 and 7) state Lifeline Program eligibility criteria and that the waiver go into effect when the FCC's upcoming changes to the federal Lifeline Program eligibility criteria become effective. Under this approach, only those state criteria that continued to be on the list

⁷ *Id.*, paras. 197-204.

of the *revised* federal criteria would then apply until the Commission updates 4 CSR 240-31.120(1)(A) to again mirror the federal criteria. The existing state rule 4 CSR 240-31.120(1)(A)(9), which allows use of “[a]ny other eligibility criteria as determined by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to be applicable in all states or as identified in FCC rule 47 CFR 54.409,” will allow use of the FCC’s newly added Veterans and Survivors Pension benefit program as one of the qualifying criteria once the revised FCC rules become effective.

Importantly, the effective date for the requested waiver should mirror the effective date for the federal rule changes, or there will be a period of time during which the state eligibility criteria will not mirror the federal eligibility criteria. The revised federal eligibility criteria are currently scheduled to go into effect the later of December 1, 2016 or 60 days following the announcement of federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval. However, the effective date of the federal rule changes is subject to a petition for reconsideration⁸ and a petition for waiver,⁹ both of which are currently pending before the FCC. Applicants therefore recommend that the Commission make clear that the requested waiver will become effective when the federal rule changes become effective, without specifying a date certain effective date.

7. New FCC Lifeline Benefit “Port Freeze” Rule. The FCC’s *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization Order* also implemented Lifeline benefit port freeze rules (12 months

⁸ United States Telecom Association (USTelecom) requested that the FCC defer the effective date of the streamlined federal eligibility criteria at least until the later of December 31, 2017, or 12 months after OMB approval of the Order. USTelecom Petition for Reconsideration & Clarification, *In the Matter of Lifeline & Link Up Reform & Modernization*, WC Docket No. 11-42, *Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support*, WC Docket No. 09-197, *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90 (filed June 23, 2016), available at <https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/10623780610030/USTelecom-Lifeline-Recon-2016-06-23-FINAL.pdf> (last checked September 2, 2016).

⁹ On October 3, 2016, USTelecom filed a petition for a limited waiver seeking to permit Lifeline providers to continue enrolling consumers in the federal Lifeline program based on state-specific program and income eligibility criteria. See Petition of USTelecom for Waiver of Lifeline Eligibility Rules, WC Docket No. 11-42 et al (filed Oct. 3, 2016).

for data services and 60 days for voice services).¹⁰ With respect to Lifeline voice service, and with limited exceptions,¹¹ the FCC mandated:

A Lifeline provider also may not seek or receive reimbursement through the Lifeline program for service provided to a subscriber who used the Lifeline benefit to enroll in a qualifying Lifeline-supported voice telephony service offering with another Lifeline provider within the previous 60 days. . .¹²

Once this new rule goes into effect, it may conflict with Missouri rule 4 CSR 240-31.130 (2)(C), which states: “If an ETC, other than a provider of IVoIP service, offers voice telephony service, then that ETC shall make such service available to all subscribers in the ETC’s service area upon reasonable request.” In order to avoid any conflict that may exist with the new federal Lifeline benefit port freeze rule, Applicants request the Commission waive the requirement, if necessary, to make state and federal Lifeline service available to customers subject to a federal port freeze. Again, Applicants ask that the requested waiver become effective when the federal rule changes become effective, without specifying a date certain effective date.

8. The Applicants. BPS Telephone Company (“Company”) is a Missouri corporation in good standing with its principal office at 120 Stewart Street, Bernie, Missouri, 63822-0550. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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

¹⁰ *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization Order*, paras. 385-394.

¹¹ The FCC’s *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization Order*, para. 393, created the following exceptions to the port freeze rule:

- the subscriber moves their residential address;
- the provider ceases operations or otherwise fails to provide service;
- the provider has imposed late fees for non-payment related to the supported service(s) greater than or equal to the monthly end-user charge for service; or
- the provider is found to be in violation of the Commission’s rules during the benefit year and the subscriber is impacted by such violation.

¹² *Id.* para. 392.

(3) years of the date of this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

9. Citizens Telephone Company of Higginsville, Missouri (“Company”) is a Missouri corporation in good standing with its principal office at 1905 Walnut Street, Higginsville, Missouri, 64037-0737. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

10. Craw-Kan Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (“Company”) is a Kansas corporation authorized to do business in the State of Missouri with its principal office at 200 North Ozark, Girard, Kansas, 66743. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

11. Ellington Telephone Company (“Company”) is a Missouri corporation in good standing with its principal office at 200 College Avenue, Ellington, Missouri, 63638. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

12. Farber Telephone Company (“Company”) is a Missouri corporation in good standing with its principal office at Main & Linn Streets, Farber, Missouri, 63345. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

13. Fidelity Communications Services I, Inc. (“Company”) is a Missouri corporation in good standing with its principal office at 64 North Clark, Sullivan, Missouri, 63080. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

14. Fidelity Telephone Company (“Company”) is a Missouri corporation in good standing with its principal office at 64 North Clark, Sullivan, Missouri, 63080. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

15. Goodman Telephone Company, Inc. (“Company”) is a Missouri corporation in good standing with its principal office at 816 Oneida Avenue, Seneca, Missouri, 64865. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

16. Granby Telephone Company (“Company”) is a Missouri corporation in good standing with its principal office at 126 South Beaver Avenue, Granby, Missouri, 64844. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

17. Grand River Mutual Telephone Corporation d/b/a GRM Networks (“Company”) is a Missouri corporation in good standing with its principal office at 1001 Kentucky Street, Princeton, Missouri 64673. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

18. Green Hills Cellular Telephone d/b/a Green Hills Telecommunications Services (“Company”) is a Missouri corporation in good standing with its principal office at 7926 NE State Route M, Breckenridge, Missouri, 64625. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report of assessment fees.

19. Green Hills Telephone Corporation (“Company”) is a Missouri corporation in good standing with its principal office at 7926 NE State Route M, Breckenridge, Missouri, 64625. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

20. Holway Telephone Company d/b/a American Broadband (“Company”) is a Missouri corporation in good standing with its principal office at 208 Ash Street, Maitland, Missouri, 64466. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

21. Iamo Telephone Company (“Company”) is an Iowa corporation authorized to do business in the State of Missouri with its principal office at 104 Crook Street, Coin, Iowa, 51636. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

22. Kingdom Telephone Company (“Company”) is a Missouri corporation in good standing with its principal office at 211 South Main, Auxvasse, Missouri, 65231. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

23. KLM Telephone Company d/b/a American Broadband (“Company”) is a Missouri corporation in good standing with its principal office at 208 Ash Street, Maitland, Missouri, 64466. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

24. Lathrop Telephone Company d/b/a LTC Networks (“Company”) is a Missouri corporation in good standing with its principal office at 1001 Kentucky Street, Princeton, Missouri, 64673. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

25. Le-Ru Telephone Company (“Company”) is a Missouri corporation in good standing with its principal office at 555 Carter Street, Stella, Missouri, 64867. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

26. Mark Twain Communications Company (“Company”) is a Missouri corporation in good standing with its principal office at 48054 State Highway 6, Hurdland, Missouri, 63547-0068. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been

designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

27. Mark Twain Rural Telephone Company (“Company”) is a Missouri corporation in good standing with its principal office at 48054 State Highway 6, Hurdland, Missouri, 63547-0068. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

28. McDonald County Telephone Company (“Company”) is a Missouri corporation in good standing with its principal office at P.O. Box 207, 704 N. Main, Pineville, Missouri, 64856-0207. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

29. Miller Telephone Company (“Company”) is a Missouri corporation in good standing with its principal office at 213 East Main Street, Miller, Missouri, 65707. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

30. New Florence Telephone Company (“Company”) is a Missouri corporation in good standing with its principal office at 101 North Main Street, New Florence, Missouri, 63363-0175. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

31. New London Telephone Company (“Company”) is a Missouri corporation in good standing with its principal office at 101 North Main Street, New Florence, Missouri, 63363-0175. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

32. Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone Company (“Company”) is a Missouri corporation in good standing with its principal place of business at 718 South West Street, Green City, Missouri, 63545. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

33. Orchard Farm Telephone Company (“Company”) is a Missouri corporation in good standing with its principal office at 101 North Main Street, New Florence, Missouri, 63363-0175. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

34. The Oregon Farmers Mutual Telephone Company (“Company”) is a Missouri corporation in good standing with its principal office at 118 East Nodaway, Oregon, Missouri, 64473. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

35. Ozark Telephone Company (“Company”) is a Missouri corporation in good standing with its principal office at 816 Oneida Avenue, Seneca, Missouri, 64865. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

36. Peace Valley Telephone Company, Inc. (“Company”) is a Missouri corporation in good standing with its principal office at 7101 State Road W, Peace Valley, Missouri, 65788. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

37. Rock Port Telephone Company (“Company”) is a Missouri corporation in good standing with its principal office at 214 S. Main, Rock Port, Missouri, 64482. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

38. Seneca Telephone Company (“Company”) is a Missouri corporation in good standing with its principal office at 816 Oneida Avenue, Seneca, Missouri, 64865. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

39. Steelville Telephone Exchange, Inc. (“Company”) is a Missouri corporation in good standing with its principal office at 61 East Highway 8, Steelville, Missouri, 65565. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

40. The Stoutland Telephone Company (“Company”) is a Missouri corporation in good standing with its principal office at 101 North Main Street, New Florence, Missouri, 63363-0175. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

41. Alma Communications Company, d/b/a Alma Telephone Company, (“Company”) is a Missouri corporation in good standing with its principal office at P.O. Box 127, 102 Third Street, Alma, MO 64001. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

42. Chariton Valley Telecom Corporation, (“Company”) is a Missouri corporation in good standing with its principal office at P.O. Box 67, 1213 East Briggs Drive, Macon, MO 63552. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

43. Chariton Valley Telephone Corporation, (“Company”) is a Missouri corporation in good standing with its principal office at P.O. Box 67, 1213 East Briggs Drive, Macon, MO 63552. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

44. Choctaw Telephone Company, (“Company”) is a Missouri corporation in good standing with its principal office at P.O. Box 428, Louisburg, KS 66053. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

45. MoKan Dial, Inc., (“Company”) is a Kansas corporation authorized to do business in the state of Missouri, and in good standing, with its principal office at P.O. Box 428, Louisburg, KS 66053. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

46. Otelco Mid-Missouri, LLC (“Company”) is a Missouri limited liability corporation in good standing with its principal office at P.O. Box 38, 215 Roe Street, Pilot Grove, MO 65276. The Company provides essential local telecommunications service and has

been designated by the Commission as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

47. CenturyLink's Embarq Missouri, Inc. affiliate was originally incorporated in Missouri in 1929 as The United Telephone Company. A restatement of its certification was received in Case No. TA-88-87. CenturyLink has received all necessary Commission and Secretary of State approvals for subsequent name changes and is a corporation in good standing in the State of Missouri. Evidence of proper name registrations was most recently provided to this Commission in Case No. TO-97-53 (Re: United Telephone Company of Missouri's Adoption Notice Designed to Change the Company's Name to United Telephone Company of Missouri d/b/a Sprint), Case No. TO-98-107 (Application of United Telephone Company of Missouri d/b/a Sprint for Approval of Name Change to Sprint Missouri, Inc.), Case No. TN-2006-0416 (Re Name Change Request of Sprint Missouri, Inc., to Embarq Missouri, Inc., d/b/a Embarq) and Case No. TN-2010-0086 (Fictitious Name Change Request of Embarq Missouri, Inc. d/b/a Embarq to Embarq Missouri, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink). CenturyLink requests that the information in those cases be incorporated herein by reference. To CenturyLink's knowledge, there are no overdue assessments or annual reports or final unsatisfied judgments or decisions against it involving customer service or rates occurring within the last three years.

48. CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC d/b/a CenturyLink is a Louisiana limited liability corporation that is duly authorized to do business in the state of Missouri and authorized by the Commission to provide basic local and interexchange telecommunications services. Copies of

CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC's Certificate of Authority to transact business in Missouri from the Missouri Secretary of State were filed in Case No. TM-2002-232, and are incorporated herein by reference pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.060(1)(G). To CenturyLink's knowledge there are no overdue assessments or annual reports or final unsatisfied judgments or decisions against it involving customer service or rates occurring within the last three years.

49. Spectra Communications Group, LLC d/b/a CenturyLink is a Delaware limited liability corporation that is duly authorized to do business in the state of Missouri and authorized by the Commission to provide basic local and interexchange telecommunications services. Copies of Spectra Communications Group, LLC's Certificate of Authority issued by the Missouri Secretary of State were filed in Case No. TM-2000-182 and incorporated herein by reference pursuant to Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.060(1)(G). To CenturyLink's knowledge there are no overdue assessments or annual reports or final unsatisfied judgments or decisions against it involving customer service or rates occurring within the last three years.

50. CenturyTel of Northwest Arkansas, LLC d/b/a CenturyLink is a Louisiana limited liability corporation that is duly authorized to do business in the state of Missouri. Copies of CenturyLink's Certificate of Authority to transact business in Missouri from the Missouri Secretary of State were filed in File No. TN-2010-0090, and are incorporated herein by reference pursuant to Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.060(1)(G). To CenturyLink's knowledge there are no overdue assessments or annual reports or final unsatisfied judgments or decisions against it involving customer service or rates occurring within the last three years.

51. FairPoint Communications Missouri, Inc. d/b/a FairPoint Communications ("Company") is a Missouri corporation with its principal Missouri office at 192 West Broadway, Peculiar, Missouri 64078. Company is authorized to do business in Missouri and its fictitious

name is duly registered with the Missouri Secretary of State. The Commission has authorized Company to provide basic local telecommunications service and designated Company as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

52. Windstream Iowa Communications, LLC (“Company”) is a Delaware limited liability company authorized to conduct business in Missouri, with its principal office at 4001 Rodney Parham Road, Little Rock, Arkansas 72212. The Commission has authorized Company to provide basic local telecommunications service and designated Company as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

53. Windstream Missouri, LLC (“Company”) is a Delaware limited liability company authorized to conduct business in Missouri, with its principal office at 4001 Rodney Parham Road, Little Rock, Arkansas 72212. The Commission has authorized Company to provide basic local telecommunications service and designated Company as an ETC. The Company 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 this Application. The Company has no overdue annual report or assessment fees.

54. Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, d/b/a AT&T Missouri is a Delaware corporation with its principal Missouri office at 909 Chestnut Street, Room 3558, St. Louis, Missouri 63101. It may be contacted at the regular and electronic mail addresses and telephone and facsimile numbers of its attorney, as set out under the signature block of this Application. AT&T Missouri is authorized to do business in Missouri¹³ and its fictitious name is duly registered with the Missouri Secretary of State.¹⁴ AT&T Missouri is a "local exchange telecommunications company" and a "public utility," and is duly authorized to provide "telecommunications service" within the State of Missouri, as each of those phrases is defined in Section 386.020, RSMo 2000. AT&T Missouri has no final unsatisfied judgments or decisions against it from any state or federal agency or court which involve retail customer service or rates, which action, judgment or decision has occurred within three (3) years of the date of this Application. AT&T Missouri does not have any annual report or assessment fees that are overdue in Missouri.

55. Applicants' Counsel. All correspondence, pleadings, orders, decisions, and communications regarding this proceeding should be sent to:

William R. England, III
Brian T. McCartney
Brydon, Swearngen & England P.C.
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0456
trip@brydonlaw.com
bmccartney@brydonlaw.com

Craig S. Johnson
Johnson & Sporleder, LLP
2420 Hyde Park Road, Suite C

¹³ See, Certificate of Conversion from the Missouri Secretary of State, dated October 3, 2012 (which was filed with the Commission on December 4, 2012 in Case No. IO-2013-0323).

¹⁴ A copy of the registration of the fictitious name "AT&T Missouri" was filed with the Commission on July 17, 2007, in Case No. TO-2002-185.

Jefferson City, MO 65109
cj@cjlaw.com

Larry W. Dority
Fischer & Dority, P.C.
101 Madison, Suite 400
Jefferson City, MO 65101
lwdority@sprintmail.com

Becky Owenson Kilpatrick
CenturyLink
100 CenturyLink Drive
Monroe, LA 71203
becky.kilpatrick@centurylink.com

Leo J. Bub
AT&T Missouri
909 Chestnut Street, Room 3558
St. Louis, Missouri 63101
leo.bub@att.com

56. For the reasons explained below, good cause exists to grant this Application, and no public utility other than the Applicants would be affected by such grant.

WHEREFORE, Applicants respectfully request that the Commission grant the requested waivers, which will help minimize customer confusion, avoid conflicts between state and federal Lifeline eligibility rules and relieve administrative burdens arising from program inconsistencies.

Respectfully submitted,

BPS Telephone Company, Citizens Telephone Company of Higginsville, Missouri, Craw-Kan Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Ellington Telephone Company, Farber Telephone Company, Fidelity Communications Services I, Inc., Fidelity Telephone Company, Goodman Telephone Company, Inc., Granby Telephone Company, Grand River Mutual Telephone Corporation d/b/a GRM Networks, Green Hills Cellular Telephone d/b/a Green Hills Telecommunications Services, Green Hills Telephone Corporation, Holway Telephone Company d/b/a American Broadband, Iamo

Telephone Company, Kingdom Telephone Company, KLM Telephone Company d/b/a American Broadband, Lathrop Telephone Company d/b/a LTC Networks, Le-Ru Telephone Company, Mark Twain Communications Company, Mark Twain Rural Telephone Company, McDonald County Telephone Company, Miller Telephone Company, New Florence Telephone Company, New London Telephone Company, Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone Company, Orchard Farm Telephone Company, The Oregon Farmers Mutual Telephone Company, Ozark Telephone Company, Peace Valley Telephone Company, Inc., Rock Port Telephone Company, Seneca Telephone Company, Steelville Telephone Exchange, Inc., Stoutland Telephone Company

By: /s/ William R. England, III
William R. England, III #23975
Brian T. McCartney #47788
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0456
573- 635-7166 (Telephone)/ 573-634-7431 (Fax)
trip@brydonlaw.com
bmccartney@brydonlaw.com

Alma Communications Company, d/b/a Alma Telephone Company, Chariton Valley Telecom Corporation, Chariton Valley Telephone Corporation, Choctaw Telephone Company, MoKan Dial, Inc., Otelco Mid-Missouri, LLC

By: /s/ Craig S. Johnson
Craig S. Johnson #28179
Johnson & Sporleder, LLP
2420 Hyde Park Road, Suite C
Jefferson City, MO 65109
573-659-8734 (Telephone)/573-761-3587 (Fax)
cj@cjaslaw.com

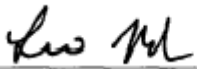
FairPoint Communications Missouri, Inc. d/b/a FairPoint
Communications, Windstream Missouri, LLC and Windstream
Iowa Communications, LLC

By: /s/ Larry W. Dority
Larry W. Dority, # 25617
Fischer & Dority, P.C.
101 Madison Street, Suite 400
Jefferson City, MO 65101
573- 636-6758 (Telephone)/573-636-0383 (Fax)
lwdority@sprintmail.com

Embarq Missouri, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink, CenturyTel of Missouri,
LLC d/b/a CenturyLink, Spectra Communications Group, LLC
d/b/a CenturyLink, CenturyTel of Northwest Arkansas, LLC d/b/a
CenturyLink

By: /s/ Becky Owenson Kilpatrick
Becky Owenson Kilpatrick # 42042
100 CenturyLink Drive
Monroe, LA 71203
318-340-5027 (telephone)
becky.kilpatrick@centurylink.com

Southwestern Bell Telephone Company
d/b/a AT&T Missouri

BY 

Leo J. Bub #34326
909 Chestnut Street, Room 3558
St. Louis, Missouri 63101
314-235-2508 (Telephone)/314-247-0014 (Fax)
leo.bub@att.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Copies of this document were served on the following parties by e-mail on October 24, 2016.

BY 
Leo Bub

General Counsel
Kevin Thompson
Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
staffcounsel@psc.mo.gov
kevin.thompson@psc.mo.gov

Office Of The Public Counsel
P.O. Box 7800
Jefferson City, MO 65102
opcservice@ded.mo.gov