

# BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application for Approval of an )  
Interconnection Agreement Between Embarq )  
Missouri, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink, and Peerless )  
Network of Missouri, LLC Pursuant to the )  
Telecommunications Act of 1996 )

**File No. IK-2023-0268**

## ORDER APPROVING INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT

Issue Date: April 18, 2023

Effective Date: May 18, 2023

This order approves a negotiated Interconnection Agreement between the parties filed by Embarq Missouri, Inc., d/b/a CenturyLink.

On February 21, 2023, CenturyLink filed an application with the Commission for approval of a negotiated Interconnection Agreement (the Agreement) with Peerless Network of Missouri, LLC under the provisions of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act). CenturyLink is certificated with the Commission as an incumbent local exchange carrier. Peerless Network of Missouri, LLC is certificated with the Commission as a competitive local exchange and interexchange carrier.

Although Peerless Network of Missouri, LLC is a party to the Agreement, it did not join in the application. On March 8, 2023, the Commission issued an order making Peerless Network of Missouri, LLC a party in this case and directing any party wishing to request a hearing to do so no later than March 23, 2023. No requests for hearing were filed.

Under Section 252(e) of the Act, any Interconnection Agreement adopted by negotiation must be submitted to the Commission for approval. The Commission may reject an Agreement if it finds that the Agreement is discriminatory or that it is not consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity.

On April 5, 2023, the Staff of the Commission (Staff) filed a recommendation. Staff recommends that the Agreement be approved and notes that the Agreement meets the limited requirements of the Act in that it is not discriminatory toward nonparties and is not against the public interest.

The Commission has considered the application, the supporting documentation, and Staff's recommendation. Based upon that review, the Commission finds that the Agreement meets the requirements of the Act in that it does not discriminate against a nonparty carrier and implementation of the Agreement is not inconsistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity.

CenturyLink further requested a waiver of the Commission's 60-day notice of case filing requirement. The application represents that the applicant has not had contact with the Office of the Commission about any substantive issue connected to the filing within 60 days before filing the application. On the basis of that representation, for good cause shown, the Commission will waive application of the pre-filing notice requirements of Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1).

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:**

1. The Interconnection Agreement between CenturyLink and Peerless Network of Missouri, LLC, filed on February 21, 2023, is approved.
2. The pre-filing notice requirements of Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1) are waived.
3. This order shall become effective on May 18, 2023.
4. This file may be closed on May 19, 2023.



**BY THE COMMISSION**

*Nancy Dippell*

Nancy Dippell  
Secretary

Nancy Dippell, Chief Regulatory  
Law Judge, by delegation of authority  
pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2016.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,  
on this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023.

**STATE OF MISSOURI**

**OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.**

**WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City, Missouri, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023.**



*Nancy Dippell*

**Nancy Dippell**  
**Secretary**

**MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**April 18, 2023**

**File/Case No. IK-2023-0268**

**Missouri Public Service  
Commission**

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**Missouri Public Service  
Commission**

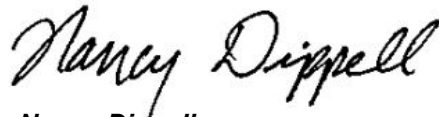
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**Peerless Network of Missouri,  
LLC**

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**Enclosed find a certified copy of an Order or Notice issued in the above-referenced matter(s).**

**Sincerely,**



**Nancy Dippell  
Secretary**

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Recipients listed above with a valid e-mail address will receive electronic service. Recipients without a valid e-mail address will receive paper service.