

Attorneys at Law Regulatory & Governmental Consultants

101 Madison, Suite 400 Jefferson City, MO 65101 Telephone: (573) 636-6758 Fax: (573) 636-0383

April 7, 2003

FILED³ APR 0 7 2003

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge Missouri Public Service Commission P.O. Box 360 Jefferson City, MO 65102

.

Service Commission

RE: In the matter of the Joint Application of Digital Teleport, Inc. and CenturyTel Fiber Company II, LLC for 1) authority to transfer and acquire Digital Teleport, Inc.'s franchise, facilities or system located in the State of Missouri; (2) for issuance of certificates of service authority to CenturyTel Fiber Company II, LLC; and (3) to classify CenturyTel Fiber Company II, LLC as a competitive telecommunications company. Case No.

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing on behalf of Digital Teleport, Inc. and CenturyTel Fiber Company II, LLC, please find an original and eight (8) copies of a Joint Application, and an original and eight (8) copies of a Motion for Expedited Treatment.

Thank you for bringing this filing to the attention of the appropriate Commission personnel.

Sincerely,

Jam W Dointy

Larry W. Dority

Enclosure cc: Office of the Public Counsel General Counsel

James M. Fischer Larry W. Dority

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Missouri Public Service Commission

FILE

APR 0 7 2003

In the matter of the Joint Application of) Digital Teleport, Inc. and) **CenturyTel Fiber Company II, LLC**) for 1) authority to transfer and acquire) Digital Teleport, Inc.'s franchise, facilities) or system located in the State of Missouri;) (2) for issuance of certificates of service authority to CenturyTel Fiber Company) II, LLC; and (3) to classify CenturyTel) Fiber Company II, LLC as a competitive) telecommunications company.

Case No.

MOTION FOR EXPEDITED TREATMENT

COME NOW Digital Teleport, Inc. ("DTI") and CenturyTel Fiber Company II, LLC ("CTF II") (collectively "Joint Applicants"), through their undersigned counsel, and pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.080(16) respectfully request expedited treatment in the Missouri Public Service Commission's ("Commission") review and approval of the Joint Application filed in this matter concurrently herewith. In support of their Motion, Joint Applicants respectfully state:

1. As specifically set forth in the Joint Application filed in this matter (the allegations and statements contained in the Joint Application are incorporated herein by reference), Joint Applicants respectfully request that the Commission act expeditiously to grant the authority and relief requested in the Joint Application as soon as practicable, but to be effective no later than May 31, 2003.

2. Whereas DTI is in the process of terminating its operations through a Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceeding, CTF II is acquiring the core domestic telecommunications assets of DTI, including the related operations of DTI in Missouri (the "Transaction"). In order to complete the Transaction, CTF II entered into an Asset Purchase Agreement with DTI for the sale of substantially all of the assets utilized by DTI to operate its domestic telecommunications business, as well as the assignment of certain contracts and leases. The Asset Purchase Agreement, and the sale of assets to CTF II, were approved by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Missouri on February 13, 2003, in Chapter 11 Case No. 01-54369-399 (Bankr. E.D. Mo.).

3. According to the terms of the court-approved Asset Purchase Agreement, all required regulatory approvals must be received for the assignment of assets from DTI to CTF II and the assumption by CTF II of DTI's business and operations before the Transaction can close. The benefits that will accrue if the commission acts by the date desired by the parties include assuring the orderly transfer of the assets and the continued provision of service to DTI customers, as well as to allow for the transition process necessary to avoid disruption of service that would otherwise occur. Regarding the harm that will be avoided if the Commission acts as requested, failure to obtain the required regulatory approvals in a timely manner could endanger the Transaction, in which case DTI may be forced to suspend operations and its customers could suffer a precipitous disruption of service. There will be no negative effect on the parties' customers or the general public if the commission acts by the date desired by the parties.

4. Joint Applicants respectfully state that this pleading was filed as soon as it could have been. Requests for approvals from the Federal Communications Commission and fourteen (14) state public utility authorities are being coordinated by the Joint Applicants, in conformance with the court-approved Asset Purchase Agreement.

2

WHEREFORE, Digital Teleport, Inc. and CenturyTel Fiber Company II, LLC respectfully request the Commission to grant their Motion for Expedited Treatment and to grant the authority and relief requested in the Joint Application as soon as practicable, but to be effective no later than May 31, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. FischerMBN 27543Larry W. DorityMBN 25617FISCHER & DORITY, P.C.101 Madison, Suite 400Jefferson City, MO 65101Telephone:(573) 636-6758jFacsimile:(573) 636-0383E-mail:jfischerpc@aol.comE-mail:lwdority@sprintmail.com

Russell M. Blau Brett P. Ferenchak Swidler Berlin Shereff Friedman, LLP 3000 K Street, NW, Suite 300 Washington, DC 20007-5116 Telephone: (202) 424-7835 Facsimile: (202) 424-7645

COUNSEL FOR JOINT APPLICANTS

Dated: April <u>7</u>, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I do hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document has been hand-delivered, transmitted by e-mail or mailed, First Class, postage prepaid, this $7\frac{\pi}{2}$ day of April, 2003, to:

Office of the Public Counsel P.O. Box 7800 Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dana K. Joyce General Counsel Missouri Public Service Commission P.O. Box 360 Jefferson City, MO 65102

Stacey W. Goff, Esq. Vice President and Asst. Gen. Counsel CenturyTel, Inc. 100 CenturyTel Drive Monroe, LA 71203 Daniel Davis, Esq. Senior Vice President and General Counsel Digital Teleport, Inc. 14567 North Outer Forty Road Chesterfield, MO 63017