

**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	)	<b><u>File No. IK-2023-0268</u></b>
Peerless Network of Missouri, LLC Pursuant to	)	
the Telecommunications Act of 1996	)	

**STAFF’S RECOMMENDATION**

**COMES NOW** the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Staff”), by and through counsel, and for its *Status Report*, states the following:

1. On February 21, 2023, Embarq Missouri, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink (“CenturyLink”), filed with the Missouri Public Service Commission its *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*.

2. On March 8, 2023, the Commission added Peerless Network of Missouri, LLC (“Peerless”) as a party to this case. Peerless is a necessary party to a full and fair adjudication of this matter.

3. 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.

4. In lieu of a Memorandum, Staff hereby states that 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 Agreement was filed with the *Application*. CenturyLink is certificated with the Commission as an incumbent local exchange carrier. Peerless is certificated with the Commission as a competitive local exchange and interexchange carrier.

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

Respectfully submitted,

**/s/ Eric Vandergriff**

Eric Vandergriff  
Legal Counsel  
Missouri Bar No. 73984  
P.O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
573-522-9524 (Voice)  
573-751-9285 (Fax)  
Eric.Vandergriff@psc.mo.gov

Staff Counsel for the Missouri  
Public Service Commission

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed or hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile or electronically mailed to all parties and/or counsel of record on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023.

**/s/ Eric Vandergriff**