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

In the Matter of the Application of Metropolitan	)
Telecommunications of Missouri, Inc. to Expand	)
Its Certificate of Authority to Provide Basic Local	File No. CO-2014-0025
Telecommunications Services to Include All Zones	)
and Exchange Areas Served by Incumbent Local	)
Exchange Carrier, Windstream, Inc.	)

## ORDER HOLDING CASE IN ABEYANCE AND DIRECTING FILING

Issue Date: July 31, 2013 Effective Date: July 31, 2013

On July 30, 2013, Metropolitan Telecommunications of Missouri, Inc. ("Company") filed an application with the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") seeking to expand its certificate of authority to provide basic local telecommunications services to all exchanges in Missouri served by incumbent local exchange carrier Windstream Missouri, Inc.. The application was signed on behalf of the Company by "John Rossi, Marketing and Regulatory". There is no indication in the application that Mr. Rossi is an attorney.

The rules of practice before the Commission prohibit a non-attorney from representing a company. Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.040(5) states that while a natural person may represent himself or herself, "such practice is strictly limited to the appearance of a natural person on his or her own behalf and shall not be made for any other person or entity". 4 CSR 240-2.040(3) governs the practice of attorneys before the Commission and states as follows:

Attorneys who wish to practice before the commission shall fully comply with its rules and also comply with one (1) of the following criteria:

(A) An attorney who is licensed to practice law in the state of Missouri, and in good standing, may practice before the commission;

- (B) A nonresident attorney who is a member of the Missouri Bar in good standing, but who does not maintain an office for the practice of law within the state of Missouri, may appear as in the case of a resident attorney;
- (C) Any attorney who is not a member of the Missouri Bar, but who is a member in good standing of the bar of any court of record, may petition the commission for leave to be permitted to appear and participate in a particular case under all of the following conditions:
- 1. The visiting attorney shall file in a separate pleading a statement identifying each court of which that attorney is a member and certifying that neither the visiting attorney nor any member of the attorney's firm is disqualified to appear in any of these courts;
- 2. The statement shall designate some member in good standing of the Missouri Bar having an office within Missouri as associate counsel;
- 3. The designated Missouri attorney shall simultaneously enter an appearance as an attorney of record; and
- 4. The visiting attorney shall provide a receipt or a statement showing that he or she has complied with the requirement of Missouri Supreme Court Rule 6.01(m).

The Company's application is subject to rejection for failing to comply with the Commission rule described above. However, the Commission will instead require the Company to file an entry of appearance by an attorney qualified to practice before the Commission and will hold the case in abeyance until the filing of the entry of appearance.

## THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

- 1. Metropolitan Telecommunications of Missouri, Inc. shall file an entry of appearance by an attorney qualified to practice before the Commission no later than August 30, 2013.
- 2. This case shall be held in abeyance until Metropolitan Telecommunications of Missouri, Inc. files the entry of appearance required in Ordered Paragraph 1.

3. This order shall become effective upon issuance.

BY THE COMMISSION

Morris I Woodruff

Morris L. Woodruff Secretary

Michael Bushmann, Regulatory Law Judge, by delegation of authority pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri, on this 31<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2013.