

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

In the Matter of the Request from the Customers in the)
Rockaway Beach Exchange for an Expanded Calling) Case No. TO-2003-0257
Scope to Make Toll-Free Calls to Branson.)

**PROGRESS REPORT
AND
JOINT MOTION FOR FURTHER STAY OF PROCEEDINGS**

COME NOW the Office of the Public Counsel (“Public Counsel”), the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Staff”) and CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC (“CenturyTel”) (collectively referred to herein as the “Parties”), pursuant to the Commission’s Order Granting Continuance entered in this matter on May 14, 2003, and for their Progress Report and Joint Motion for Further Stay of Proceedings respectfully state as follows:

1. In response to the Parties’ previous requests for continuances filed in this matter, the Commission twice has accommodated the Parties’ desire that the Commission defer any action in response to Public Counsel’s petition, in order to allow CenturyTel the opportunity to continue to address the issues presented on an informal basis.¹

2. As noted in the Parties’ Progress Report and Joint Motion for Further Stay of Proceedings filed on May 6, 2003, CenturyTel has conducted “Community Informational Meetings” in Branson, Missouri with representatives of several communities potentially involved in this matter (referred to by CenturyTel as the “Tri-Lakes” market area), as an important part of its process to formulate product solutions to

¹ *Order Directing Filing*, April 7, 2003; *Order Granting Continuance*, May 14, 2003.

meet its customers' calling needs. At the time of that Report, CenturyTel anticipated that it would be making a tariff filing in the 3rd Quarter 2003 to address these issues.

3. CenturyTel has continued its planning process in a diligent manner and, in fact, concluded another successful community informational meeting just yesterday in Branson (well-attended by approximately thirty individuals, including representatives of chambers of commerce, mayors and a state senator). However, it now appears that the anticipated tariff filing will occur in the 1st Quarter 2004. CenturyTel shared this revised timeline for the anticipated tariff filing with the attendees at the September 30 meeting.

4. Accordingly, based on CenturyTel's representations as set forth above, and in order to allow CenturyTel the opportunity to continue to address these issues on an informal basis, the Parties respectfully request that the Commission continue to defer any action in response to Public Counsel's petition until March 30, 2004. The Parties affirm that they will file a report on or before that date, to outline the posture of the case at that time.

WHEREFORE, the Office of the Public Counsel, the Staff of the Commission and CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC respectfully move that the Commission (1) accept this Progress Report as responsive to the Commission's Order Granting Continuance; and (2) issue an Order in this matter further staying any action in response to Public Counsel's petition until March 30, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

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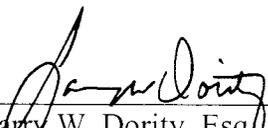
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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, to all counsel of record this 1st day of October, 2003.


Larry W. Dority