

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

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

STATUS REPORT

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) and for its Status Report states:

1. The parties met in a prehearing conference on September 29, 2005 to regroup and discuss the status of the case following the filing, and subsequent withdrawal, of a Stipulation and Agreement between CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC (“CenturyTel”) and the Office of the Public Counsel (“OPC”). The Stipulation and Agreement proposed to use a portion of CenturyTel’s annual Consumer Price Index (CPI-TS) price-cap adjustment to offset the expense of implementing expanded calling in the Branson area. The Commission held a hearing on August 22, 2005 to determine whether to approve the Stipulation and Agreement, however, CenturyTel and the OPC withdrew the Stipulation and Agreement on August 24, 2005.

2. In the September 29, 2005 prehearing conference, the parties discussed the availability of other options that could potentially address the petitioners’ request for an expanded calling scope . During the prehearing conference, the parties expressed a desire to continue discussions rather than set a procedural schedule at this time. Accordingly, the regulatory law judge directed the Staff to file a Status Report to update the Commission on the parties’ progress.

3. The parties have scheduled an informal conference of the parties for the afternoon of October 19, 2005, at 1:30 p.m. in the Commission's Conference Room 510. The Staff intends to file another status report with the Commission following the October 19, 2005 conference.

WHEREFORE, the Staff respectfully submits this Status Report.

Respectfully submitted,

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/s/ Marc Poston

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Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile or electronically mailed to all counsel of record this 6th day of October 2005.

/s/ Marc Poston
