

**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 Second Order Granting Continuance entered in this matter on November 3, 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 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. CenturyTel has continued its planning and product development process in a diligent manner and, as stated in the Parties’ October 1, 2003 filing, CenturyTel anticipated that a tariff filing would occur in the 1st Quarter 2004. Thus, the Parties requested that the Commission further stay any action in this matter until March 30, 2004. The Parties further affirmed that they would file a report on or before that date, to

¹ *Order Directing Filing*, April 7, 2003; *Order Granting Continuance*, May 14, 2003; *Second Order Granting Continuance*, November 3, 2003.

outline the posture of the case at that time. The Commission granted the Parties' requests.

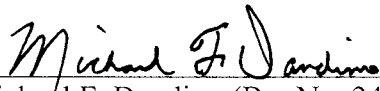
3. CenturyTel has advised the Staff and the Public Counsel that, based on its research and analysis to date, it must continue its internal process to formulate a product solution that will address these issues.² Accordingly, based on CenturyTel's representations, and in order to allow CenturyTel the 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 September 1, 2004. Once again, the Parties affirm that they will file a report on or before that date, to outline the posture of the case at that time.

² The Parties note the Commission's *Order Directing Notice and Establishing Working Group* issued on March 18, 2004, wherein the Commission established Case No. TW-2004-0471, to investigate the Metropolitan Calling Area Plan and calling scopes in Missouri. As stated in that Order: "The Commission anticipates that this working group or Task Force will investigate and consider whether the MCA plan, and calling scopes in general, should be amended, and if so, how. Included in this review must be a thorough analysis of whether, and if so, what type of, changes should be made to rural calling scopes." (*Order* at 3). The Commission further explains that it envisions that the Task Force's analysis will include a review of various consumer petitions (*e.g.*, Case Nos. TO-2001-391 and TO-2003-0298), as well as the issues raised by Public Counsel in Case No. TO-2003-0297, regarding expanded local calling plans in rural Missouri. Nevertheless, the Parties will continue to seek a solution to the issues presented in this case.

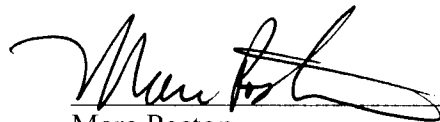
WHEREFORE, the Office of the Public Counsel, the Staff of the Commission and CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC respectfully move that the Commission (1) accept this Progress Report as responsive to the Commission's Second Order Granting Continuance; and (2) issue an Order in this matter further staying any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

Respectfully submitted,

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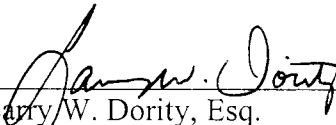
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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 30th day of March, 2004.


Larry W. Dority