

**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

STAFF’S RESPONSE
REGARDING LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff), and for its Response Regarding Local Public Hearings states:

1. On August 9, 2005, Commission issues its *Order Scheduling on the Record Presentation*. The Commission’s *Order* directed the parties to file a report or reports listing specific dates, times and locations that would be suitable for local public hearings.

2. In the Staff’s August 8, 2005 Suggestions in Opposition to the Stipulation in Agreement, the Staff stated that if the Commission determines that the proposal is lawful, the Staff requests an evidentiary hearing to look at the reasonableness of the rate design and calling scopes of this and alternative plans. The Staff recommended local public hearings be held only after the proposal is determined to be both lawful and reasonable. If the Commission determines that the proposed expanded calling plan is either unlawful or unreasonable, the Staff believes a local public hearing would be premature since no plan would be available for public comment.

3. The Staff is aware of a local public hearing location in Rockaway Beach recommended by CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC. The Staff’s preference would be to have a local public hearing in Branson at a later date. However, if the Commission determines that a local public hearing is necessary at this time, the Staff has no objections to holding a local public

hearing in the Rockaway Beach location. The Staff is available for local public hearings anytime between August 22-25 and August 29-30.

WHEREFORE, the Staff respectfully offers this response regarding local public hearings.

Respectfully submitted,

DANA K. JOYCE
General Counsel

/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 12th day of August 2005.

/s/ Marc Poston
