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

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| Application of Mid-Missouri Telephone Company, a Division of Otelco, Inc. for Approval of a Traffic Exchange Agreement with Verizon Wireless Pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996. | ) ) ) ) ) ) | Case No. _____ |

**APPLICATION OF MID-MISSOURI TELEPHONE COMPANY, A DIVISION OF OTELCO, INC. FOR APPROVAL OF A TRAFFIC EXCHANGE AGREEMENT WITH VERIZON WIRELESS PURSUANT TO THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996**

COMES NOW Mid-Missouri Telephone Company, a division of Otelco, Inc., ("Otelco") and hereby files its Application for Approval of a Traffic Exchange Agreement between Otelco and Cellco Partnership and Verizon Wireless ("Verizon Wireless") pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("the Act"). In support of this application, Otelco states to the Commission:

1. Otelco is a small rural incumbent local exchange carrier operating in the Mid-Missouri area.

2. Otelco is a Missouri corporation in good standing with the Missouri Secretary of State.

3. Correspondence, orders, and decisions in this matter directed to Otelco should be addressed to:

Gary Romig
Vice President/General Manager
Otelco Inc., Mid-Missouri Division
P.O. Box 38, 215 Roe Street
Pilot Grove, MO 65276
(660) 834-3311
(660) 834-6632 FAX

and to:

Craig S. Johnson
Attorney at Law
1648-A East Elm
Jefferson City, MO 65101
(573) 632-1900
(573) 634-6018 FAX

4. Verizon Wireless is a commercial mobile radio service carrier operating in Missouri.

5. Correspondence, orders, and decision in this matter directed to Verizon Wireless should be addressed to:

Verizon Wireless
1120 Sanctuary Parkway, Suite 150
Alpharetta, GA 30004
Attn: Associate Director, Interconnection

and to:

Verizon Wireless
1300 I. Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20005
Attn: Regulatory Counsel, Interconnection

## I. AGREEMENT REACHED

6. On December 18, 2007, after good faith negotiations, Otelco and Verizon Wireless executed a Traffic Exchange Agreement ("Agreement") pursuant to the terms of the Act (Attachment I). This is a bilateral agreement, reached as a result of negotiations and compromise between the parties.

7. Pursuant to Section 252 of the Telecommunications Act, Otelco hereby submits this Agreement for approval by the Commission.

8. The Agreement complies with Section 252(e) of the Act. The Agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity and does not discriminate against any telecommunications carrier. The Agreement consists of 28 pages, consecutively numbered. There are no outstanding issues between Otelco and Verizon Wireless that need the assistance of mediation or arbitration.

## II. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL

9. Otelco respectfully requests that the Commission approve this agreement, without change, suspension or delay in its implementation.

## III. COMMISSION AUTHORITY

10. Under the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("the Act"), the Commission has the authority to grant the relief requested by Otelco. Specifically, section 252 (a) of the act provides:

(a) Agreements Arrived at Through Negotiations

(1) Voluntary Negotiations - upon receiving a request for interconnection, services, or network elements pursuant to section 251, an incumbent local exchange carrier may

negotiate and enter into a binding agreement with requesting telecommunications carrier or carriers without regard to the standards set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 251. The agreement shall include a detailed schedule of itemized charges for interconnection in each service or network element included in the agreement. The agreement, including any interconnection agreement negotiated before the date of enactment of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, shall be submitted to the state commission under subsection (e) of this section.

## IV. STANDARD OF REVIEW

11. Under Section 252 of the Act, the Commission has the authority to approve this negotiated agreement. The Commission may reject an agreement if it is discriminatory to a nonparty or is inconsistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity. Section 252(e)(2) of the act provides as follows:

Grounds for Rejection -- The State Commission may only reject –

(A) an agreement (or any portion thereof) adopted by negotiation under section (a) if it finds that –

(i) the agreement (or portion thereof) discriminates against a telecommunications carrier, not a party to the agreement; or

(ii) the implementation of such agreement or portion is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity;

12. The attached verification of Mr. Gary Romig, Vice President/General Manager of Otelco establishes that the agreement satisfies these standards.

## V. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Otelco respectfully requests the Commission to issue an order that approves the traffic exchange agreement between Otelco and Verizon Wireless.

Craig S. Johnson, Atty.
Mo Bar # 28179
1648-A East Elm St.
Jefferson City, MO 65101
(573) 632-1900
(573) 634-6018 (fax)
craig@csjohnsonlaw.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of this pleading was mailed to the attorneys for Staff, OPC, and to Verizon Wireless by electronic mail this 3rd day of January, 2008.

Craig S. Johnson

## VERIFICATION

I, Gary Romig, Vice President/General Manager of Mid-Missouri Telephone Company, a division of Otelco, Inc., hereby verify that I am over the age of twenty-one, and have personal knowledge of the traffic exchange agreement negotiated between Otelco and Verizon Wireless, and executed as of December 18, 2007.

The parties negotiated diligently under the Telecommunication Act of 1996, culminating in the executed agreement for which approval is sought by this Application.

The Agreement is the result of negotiation and compromise.

There are no outstanding issues between the parties and that need the assistance of mediation or arbitration.

Approval of this Agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity, as it will allow the exchange of traffic between Otelco and Verizon Wireless.

This Agreement does not discriminate against any telecommunication carrier not a party to the Agreement.

Gary Romig

STATE OF MISSOURI )
)
COUNTY OF COOPER )

(notary seal)

" NOTARY SEAL "
Chrysa L. Lorenz, Notary Public
Cooper County, State of Missouri
My Commission Expires 8/12/2011
Commission Number 07420523

Before me this 3rd day of January, 2008, personally appeared Gary Romig, duly sworn and on his oath oath, deposed and said the foregoing verification was true to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief.

Notary Public

My seal expires: 8-12-2011