BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Proposed)	
Modifications to the Missouri) Case No	o. TO-2019-0346
Universal Service Fund)	

STAFF'S NOTICE REGARDING BOARD MEETING

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, by and through counsel, and for its *Notice Regarding Board Meeting* in this matter hereby states:

- 1. The Commission opened this docket May 15, 2019, to permit Staff to review and make recommendations regarding the Missouri Universal Service Fund (MoUSF). Staff has used this docket to provide updated MoUSF financial information and to obtain feedback regarding recommendations for the fund.
- 2. The MoUSF assessment was initially suspended on January 1, 2020 and currently remains suspended through September 30, 2022.
- 3. Staff filed a Notice on May 25, 2022. This Notice contains several recommendations. Feedback was solicited regarding these recommendations. On June 24, 2022 two sets of comments were filed on behalf of various company groups.¹

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¹ One set of comments were filed on behalf of the Missouri Small Telephone Company Group and the Missouri Independent Telephone Company Group. Another set of comments was filed on behalf of the Missouri Internet and Television Association.

- 4. On July 1, 2022 the Federal Communications Commission issued an order maintaining the \$5.25 in federal support for Lifeline voice-only service through December 1, 2023.²
- 5. Based on the issuance of this FCC order and a review of the recently filed comments Staff recommended the Board approve the following two recommendations:
 - Extend the suspension of the Missouri USF assessment through December 31, 2022.
 - Reinstate the Missouri USF assessment on January 1, 2023 at the rate of .0015.

Staff indicated to the Board all parties appear to support these two recommendations. Staff also indicated to the Board the Missouri Internet & Television Association (MCTA) made several additional recommendations that may more appropriately be considered at a later date. Staff will make a filing in this docket responding and providing information relevant to the consideration of MCTA's additional recommendations.

6. The Board unanimously approved the two recommendations at its July 13, 2022 Board meeting. Staff requests the Commission issue an order approving these two recommendations. Companies subject to the Missouri USF assessment may find it beneficial if the order also provides a reminder Missouri

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² Order; In the Matter of Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization WC Docket No. 11-42, Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support WC Docket No. 09-197; Connect America Fund WC Docket No. 10-90; DA 22-706; released July 1, 2022.

USF assessment requirements are identified in Missouri Commission rule 20 CSR 4240-31.012 and remittance procedures are explained on the Missouri USF administrator's website at www.missouriusf.com. The order should be issued as soon as practical but prior to the current assessment expiration date of September 30, 2022. All telecommunications companies certificated to provide basic local, local and interexchange telecommunications services as well as all interconnected VoIP providers should be provided with notice of the Commission's order.

WHEREFORE, Staff prays that the Commission will accept its *Notice*; continue suspension of the MoUSF assessment through December 31, 2022; reinstate the MoUSF assessment on January 1, 2023 at the rate of .0015; and grant such other and further relief as the Commission considers just in the circumstances.

<u>/s/ Ron Irving</u>

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by electronic mail, or First Class United States Postal Mail, postage prepaid, on this 18^{th} day of July, 2022, to all counsel of record.

/s/ Ron Irving