

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

In the Matter of a Repository Docket)
in Which to Gather Information)
Section 54.314 Certification)

Case No. TO-2020-XXXX

STAFF MOTION TO OPEN REPOSITORY DOCKET

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, by and through counsel, and for its *Motion to Open Repository Docket* states as follows:

1. The Federal Universal Service Fund is designed to permit eligible telecommunications companies (ETCs) funding for the Lifeline Program and High-Cost Programs. In order to receive federal universal service funding a company must be designated as an ETC by the state commission in the state the company desires to receive funding. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) provision §54.314 requires state commissions to annually certify "...all federal high-cost support provided to such carriers within that State was used in the preceding calendar year and will be used in the coming calendar year only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended." A company must obtain a state commission's §54.314 certification in order to receive federal high-cost support for the next calendar year.

2. In recent years, the FCC has significantly increased high-cost support to expand broadband service availability. More than 40 ETCs in Missouri currently draw support from six different federal high-cost support funds designed for this purpose. Each of these funds place different broadband deployment obligations on companies thus making the certification process more complicated. This year, Staff would like to do a more in-depth investigation of the broadband obligations to ensure that the

Missouri Public Service Commission has all of the necessary information to conduct the §54.314 certification, but also to take this opportunity to create a more complete picture of each Missouri ETC. Commission rule 20 CSR 4240-31.015(1)(D) requires ETCs to comply with any audits or investigations of the MoPSC in order to maintain compliance with the Commission's rules. To that end, Staff asks the Commission to open a repository docket through which it can conduct discovery regarding each ETC and in which the ETCs can file the necessary information.

3. Pursuant to Commission rule 20 CSR 4240-2.135(2)(A), certain information is permitted to remain confidential if it falls into the list of categories included in that rule, specifically if anything to be provided to the Commission would constitute a trade secret of the Company. Staff is certain that in the course of its investigation in this docket, the information provided by the Companies will amount to trade secrets and other materials that it would not be proper to permit review of the other telecommunications companies included in this docket. Therefore, Staff requests the Commission issue a protective order of all trade secret and other privileged information from the view of the other companies participating in this repository docket. In this manner, each Company will file information for view only by Staff, the Commission and the Office of the Public Counsel.

4. Staff has provided a list of all Missouri companies designated as ETCs eligible to receive federal high-cost support here as Attachment A. Notice of this case should be sent to all companies in Attachment A and each of those companies should be added to the service list for this docket.

WHEREFORE, Staff asks the Commission to accept *Staff's Motion to Open Repository Docket*, to open this repository docket for the purposes of conducting discovery and retrieving information from the eligible telecommunications carriers in Missouri; to issue a protective order against each company participating in this docket from the other participants to the docket pursuant to 20 CSR 4240-2.135(1)(A); and grant such other and further relief as the Commission considers just in the circumstances.

/s/ Whitney Payne

Whitney Payne
Senior Counsel
Missouri Bar No. 64078
Attorney for the Staff of the
Missouri Public Service Commission
P. O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-8706 (Telephone)
(573) 751-9285 (Fax)
whitney.payne@psc.mo.gov

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 7th day of May, 2020, to all counsel of record.

/s/Whitney Payne

ETCs eligible for federal high-cost support
Air Link Rural Broadband, LLC
Alma Communications Company d/b/a Alma Telephone Company
American Wireless, Inc.
Aristotle Unified Communications, LLC
Barry Technologies Services, LLC
BPS Telephone Company
Callabyte Technology, LLC
CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC dba CenturyLink
CenturyTel of Northwest Arkansas, LLC dba CenturyLink
Chariton Valley Communications Corporation
Chariton Valley Telephone Corporation
Choctaw Telephone Company
Citizens Telephone Company of Higginsville, Missouri
CO-MO COMM, Inc. d/b/a Co-Mo Connect
Consolidated Communications of Missouri Company d/b/a Consolidated Communications
Craw-Kan Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Ellington Telephone Company
Embarq Missouri Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink
Farber Telephone Company
Fidelity Cablevision LLC d/b/a Fidelity Communications
Fidelity Telephone, LLC d/b/a Fidelity communications
Goodman Telephone Company Inc.
GoSEMO, LLC
Granby Telephone Company
Grand River Mutual Telephone Corporation d/b/a GRM Networks
Green Hills Area Cellular Telephone d/b/a Green Hills Telecommunications Services
Green Hills Telephone Corporation
Holway Telephone Company d/b/a American Broadband
Iamo Telephone Company
Kingdom Telephone Company
KLM Telephone Company d/b/a American Broadband
Lathrop Telephone Company d/b/a LTC Networks
Le-Ru Telephone Company
Mark Twain Communications Company
Mark Twain Rural Telephone Company
McDonald County Telephone Company
Mercury Wireless Kansas, LLC
Mid-States Services, LLC
Miller Telephone Company
Missouri RSA No. 5 Partnership d/b/a Chariton Valley Wireless
MoKan Dial, Inc.
New Florence Telephone Company d/b/a Missouriicom
New London Telephone Company d/b/a Missouriicom
Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone Company
Northwest Missouri Cellular Limited Partnership
Orchard Farm Telephone Company d/b/a Missouriicom
Oregon Farmers Mutual Telephone Company
Otelco Mid-Missouri LLC
Ozark Telephone Company
Peace Valley Telephone Company, Inc.
Rock Port Telephone Company
Seneca Telephone Company
Spectra Communications Group, LLC d/b/a CenturyLink
Steelville Telephone Exchange, Inc.
Stoutland Telephone Company d/b/a Missouriicom
United Services, Inc.
USCOC of Greater Missouri, LLC d/b/a U.S. Cellular
Windstream Missouri, LLC
Wisper ISP Inc.