

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE 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.)

**RESPONSE OF CENTURYTEL OF MISSOURI, LLC
TO ORDER DIRECTING FILING**

COMES NOW CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC (“CenturyTel”), and for its Response to the Commission’s Order Scheduling Evidentiary Hearing and Directing Filings issued August 16, 2005 (“August 16 Order”), respectfully states as follows:

1. In its August 16, 2005 Order, the Commission stated:

The Commission will also direct the Office of the Public Counsel and CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC, to file statements summarizing the public input provided during the “Community Informational Meetings.” The statements should include dates and locations of where the meetings were held, the number of participants at each meeting, and a summary of what the participants indicated they wanted in regards to expanded calling plans. If possible, the statements should be accompanied by a verified affidavit. (Order, page 2).

2. The Commission further ordered, “[t]hat no later than 9:00 a.m. on August 22, 2005, the parties shall file a supplemental pleading regarding the ‘Community Informational Meetings,’ as directed above.” In response thereto, CenturyTel respectfully submits the following information.

3. The parties previously described the “Community Informational Meetings” in the Progress Report and Joint Motion for Further Stay of Proceedings filed in this matter on May 6, 2003, as follows:

CenturyTel has conducted “Community Informational Meetings” in Branson, Missouri with representatives of several communities potentially involved in this matter (referred to by CenturyTel as the “Tri-

Lakes” market area) on March 14 and April 17, 2003. CenturyTel has advised the Public Counsel and Staff that these meetings, well-attended by a broad base of private and public officials (including representatives of chambers of commerce, banking, school and real estate firms, as well as mayors and state representatives and senators), represent the latest phases of research and analysis in a strategic planning process that began back in the Fall of 2002 with market research focus groups.

In their October 1, 2003 joint pleading, the parties noted that “CenturyTel has continued its planning process in a diligent manner and, in fact, concluded another successful community informational meeting just yesterday in Branson (well-attended by approximately thirty individuals, including representatives of chambers of commerce, mayors and a state senator).

4. The specific information regarding the above-referenced meetings, to the extent available, follows:

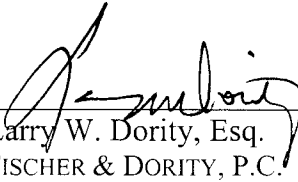
March 14, 2003 Meeting
Big Cedar Lodge
612 Devil’s Pool Road
Ridgedale, MO
Number of Participants: App. 30

April 17, 2003 Meeting
Candlestick Inn Restaurant
PO Box 7129
Branson, MO (Hollister)
Number of Participants: App. 25

September 30, 2003 Meeting
Lodge of the Ozarks
3431 W. Highway 76
Branson, MO
Number of Participants: App. 30

Summarizing the interests that participants expressed during these meetings, there was a high level of interest in providing alternative calling plans to various exchanges in the area, including possible broader expansion that could also include Ozark, Nixa and Springfield. There also was a high level of interest in bundled offerings which would include alternative calling plans offered from one provider.

Respectfully submitted,




Larry W. Dority, Esq. MBN 25617
FISCHER & DORITY, P.C.
101 Madison, Suite 400
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
Telephone: (573) 636-6758
Facsimile: (573) 636-0383
E-mail: lwdority@sprintmail.com

Attorneys for CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC

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 22nd day of August, 2005.


Larry W. Dority

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OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

STATE OF MISSOURI)
) ss.
COUNTY OF COLE)

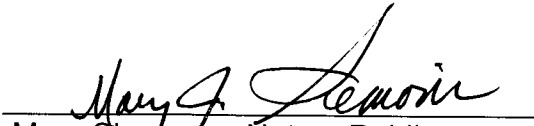
AFFIDAVIT

I, **Arthur P. Martinez**, of lawful age and being duly sworn, state: I am presently Director of Government Relations for CenturyTel. My business address is 220 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101. I hereby swear and affirm that the response of CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC in Case No. TO-2003-0257 is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.



Arthur P. Martinez

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 22nd day of August, 2005.



Mary Siemons - Notary Public

My commission expires: July 8, 2008

