

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
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 REQUEST FOR EXPANDED CALLING PLAN**

COMES NOW CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC (“CenturyTel”), pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.080 and the Commission’s *Order Directing Filing* entered in this matter on February 14, 2005, and for its Response to the Office of the Public Counsel’s (“OPC”) Request for Expanded Calling Plan (“Request”) respectfully states as follows:

1. In its Order Directing Filing, the Commission ordered “[t]hat no later than February 24, 2005, the Office of the Public Counsel shall file a statement advising the Commission and the parties whether the application remains unchanged, or advising the Commission of the specific modifications to the application.” Ordered Paragraph 1 also provided that, “Responses shall be filed within ten days of Public Counsel’s filing.”

2. In accordance with the Commission’s directive, OPC filed a Request For Expanded Calling Plan “to indicate the Rockaway Beach community’s specifics for expanded calling.” In support of the Request, OPC notes that, in addition to the request for toll free calling into the nearby Branson area from residents of Rockaway Beach, the proposed local calling scope also would include the adjoining areas of Forsyth, Kimberling City, and Reeds Spring. In addition, OPC’s Request reflects and references specific terms and conditions for the proposed expanded calling plan that were not

contained in the original petitions and letters requesting expanded calling. (*See*, Paragraph 6).

3. Paragraph 4 of the Request states:

This request is filed in accordance with the proposed recommendation of the MCA/Expanded Calling Scopes Task Force in TW-2004-0471 that the "Public Service Commission should promulgate a rule and implement a process to entertain requests for the establishment of new expanded calling plans, or changes to existing expanded calling plans." **This request is the initial action under the proposed expanded calling plan process outlined by the Task Force in its final report.** (Emphasis added).

The proposed recommendation and rule referenced by OPC is now contained in Case No. TX-2005-0194, *In the Matter of Proposed Rule 4 CSR 240-2.061, Applications for Expanded Local Calling Area Plans Within a Community of Interest*, filed with the Secretary of State on March 3, 2005. (Notice of Hearing issued March 7, 2005, notifying the public of a hearing scheduled for May 16, 2005.)

4. OPC, at Paragraph 8 of its Request, "asks the Commission to convene a conference of the interested parties, including representatives of the communities, the Staff, Public Counsel and affected carriers, within sixty days from the submission of this request to meet and discuss the proposal and any possible modifications in accordance with the Task Force's recommended procedure." The referenced section of the proposed rule is 4 CSR 240-2.061(7).

5. The remaining timeline of the proposed rule anticipates that the "Applicant shall file with the commission either a statement that the application remains unchanged or alternatively identify specific modifications to the application as a result of the conference in section (7) above; within ten (10) days after the applicant's filing, any party objecting to the application as proposed may file a pleading explaining why the

proposal is not acceptable; and within ninety (90) days after the applicant's filing, any telecommunications carrier directly affected by the proposal shall file illustrative tariff sheets to implement the applicant's proposal." See, Proposed Rule 4 CSR 240-2.061 (9), (10) & (11).

6. Obviously, the ninety (90) day window for illustrative tariff filings does not begin until after the initial conference has been held (and the applicant has adopted or declined any proposed modifications or changes discussed during the initial conference) in order to avoid wasted time and effort on a proposal that may be significantly altered.

7. In its Order Directing Filing of February 14, the Commission's Ordered Paragraph 2 provides:

That CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC, shall file illustrative tariff sheets and any supporting documentation if the company proposes to increase or establish new rates designed to maintain revenue neutrality, including the recovery of any new costs associated with implementing the new proposal. CenturyTel shall make this filing within 90 days of the Applicant's filing from Ordered Paragraph 1. If CenturyTel does not intend to increase or establish new rates, the company shall file a notice to that effect.

Whereas OPC itself has stated that "[t]his request is the initial action under the proposed expanded calling plan process outlined by the Task Force in its final report," and has requested the Commission to convene a conference within 60 days to allow the parties "to meet and discuss the proposal and any possible modifications in accordance with the Task Force's recommended procedure," CenturyTel respectfully suggests that the Commission's current ninety (90) day timeline for CenturyTel's filing is premature and should be rescinded. Should the Commission determine that such a requirement should be ordered in the future, the Commission can take that action at the appropriate point in the process.

WHEREFORE, CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC respectfully files its Response to the Request for Expanded Calling Plan, and requests that the Commission rescind the requirements contained in Ordered Paragraph 2 of its Order Directing Filing issued on February 14, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

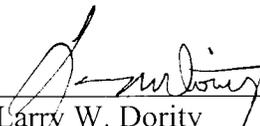


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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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 7th day of March, 2005.



Larry W. Dority