

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

In the Matter of the Application for Approval	)	
of an Interconnection Agreement between	)	<b><u>File No. IK-2024-0030</u></b>
McDonald County Telephone Company and	)	
Level 3 Communications, LLC	)	

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**COMES NOW** the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission and submits its *Recommendation* as follows:

1. On August 1, 2023, pursuant to 20 CSR 4240-28.013(2)(B), McDonald County Telephone Company filed its *Application for Approval of an Interconnection Agreement and Request for Waiver of 20 CSR 4240-4.017* between itself and Level 3 Communications, LLC under the provisions of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996.

2. 47 USC 252(e)(2) (1996) provides that a state commission may reject an interconnection agreement adopted by negotiation only if the agreement discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to it or its implementation is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.

3. In lieu of a Memorandum, Staff hereby states that the Interconnection Agreement does not discriminate against telecommunications carriers not parties to it, nor is its implementation inconsistent with the public interest, convenience or necessity. A copy of the Agreement was filed with the Application. McDonald County Telephone Company is certified with the Commission as an incumbent local exchange carrier. Level 3 Communications, LLC, is certificated with the Commission as a competitive local exchange and interexchange carrier.

**WHEREFORE,** Staff recommends the Commission approve the Application and grant such other and further relief as the Commission finds appropriate under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

**/s/ Whitney Scurlock**

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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, to all parties or their representatives pursuant to the Service List maintained by the Commission's Data Center for this file, on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023.

**/s/ Whitney Scurlock**