

# BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application for Approval of an )  
Interconnection Agreement between Steelville )  
Telephone Exchange, Inc., d/b/a STE Communications ) **File No. IK-2025-0248**  
and Level 3 Communications, LLC )

## ORDER DIRECTING NOTICE, SETTING INTERVENTION DEADLINE, AND ADDING A PARTY

Issue Date: April 4, 2025

Effective Date: April 4, 2025

This order provides notice of this application to interested parties, establishes a deadline for intervention and for requesting a hearing, and joins the other party to the Interconnection Agreement, Level 3 Communications, LLC, as a party to this proceeding.

On March 12, 2025, Steelville Telephone Exchange, Inc. d/b/a STE Communications filed an application with the Commission for approval of a negotiated Interconnection Agreement (Agreement) with Level 3 Communications, LLC under the provisions of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act). STE Communications stated that there are no unresolved issues and that the Agreement complies with Section 252(e) of the Act in that it is consistent with the public interest, convenient and necessary, and is not discriminatory to nonparty carriers.

STE Communications has also requested a waiver of the 60-day notice requirement for good cause shown,<sup>1</sup> having had no communication with the Commission within the prior 60 days regarding substantive issues likely to be in this case, other than those pleadings filed of record.

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<sup>1</sup> 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1)(D).

Although Level 3 Communications, LLC is a party to the Agreement, it did not join in the application. Because Level 3 Communications, LLC is a necessary party to a full and fair adjudication of this matter, the Commission will add Level 3 Communications, LLC as a party to this case.

The Act provides that the Agreement must be approved unless the state commission finds that the Agreement discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the Agreement, or that implementation of the Agreement is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.<sup>2</sup> Section 252(e)(4) of the Act provides that if the Commission has not acted to approve or reject an Agreement within 90 days after submission, the Agreement shall be deemed approved. That date is June 10, 2025.

The Commission finds that proper persons shall be allowed 15 days from the issuance of this order to file a motion for hearing. The Commission also finds that notice of this application shall be sent to all interexchange and local exchange telecommunications companies. The Staff of the Commission (Staff) will be directed to provide recommendation.

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:**

1. The Commission's Data Center shall send a copy of this order to all interexchange and local exchange telecommunications companies.
2. Level 3 Communications, LLC is made a party to this case.
3. Any party wishing to intervene or request a hearing shall do so by filing a pleading no later than April 19, 2025.

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<sup>2</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 252(e).

4. Staff shall file a recommendation advising either approval or rejection of this Agreement and giving the reasons therefor, or a status report regarding when Staff anticipates filing its recommendation, no later than May 5, 2025.

5. This order shall be effective when issued.



**BY THE COMMISSION**

*Nancy Dippell*

Nancy Dippell  
Secretary

Nancy Dippell, Chief Regulatory  
Law Judge, by delegation of authority  
pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2016.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,  
on this 4<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2025.

**STATE OF MISSOURI**

**OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.**

**WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City, Missouri, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of April 2025.**



*Nancy Dippell*  
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**Nancy Dippell**  
**Secretary**

**MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**April 4, 2025**

**File/Case No. IK-2025-0248**

**MO PSC Staff**

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**Level 3 Communications, LLC**

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**Enclosed find a certified copy of an Order or Notice issued in the above-referenced matter(s).**

**Sincerely,**



**Nancy Dippell  
Secretary**

**Distributed to all Interexchange and Local Exchange Telecommunications Companies.**

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Recipients listed above with a valid e-mail address will receive electronic service. Recipients without a valid e-mail address will receive paper service.