

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 APPROVING INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT

Issue Date: May 16, 2025

Effective Date: May 26, 2025

This order approves a negotiated Interconnection Agreement between the parties, which was filed by Steelville Telephone Exchange, Inc. d/b/a STE Communications.

On March 12, 2025, STE Communications filed an application with the Commission for approval of a negotiated Interconnection Agreement (the Agreement) with Level 3 Communications, LLC under the provisions of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act). STE Communications is certified with the Commission as an incumbent local exchange and an interexchange telecommunications company. Level 3 Communications, LLC is certificated with the Commission as a competitive local exchange and interexchange carrier.

Although Level 3 Communications, LLC is a party to the Agreement, it did not join in the application. On April 4, 2025, the Commission issued an order making Level 3 Communications, LLC a party in this case and directed any party wishing to request a hearing to do so no later than April 19, 2025. No requests for hearing were filed.

Under Section 252(e) of the Act, any Interconnection Agreement adopted by negotiation must be submitted to the Commission for approval. The Commission may reject an Agreement if it finds that the Agreement is discriminatory or that it is not consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity.

On May 5, 2025, the Staff of the Commission (Staff) filed a recommendation. Staff recommended that the Agreement be approved and noted that the Agreement meets the limited requirements of the Act in that it is not discriminatory toward nonparties and is not against the public interest.

The Commission has considered the application, the supporting documentation, and Staff's recommendation. Based upon that review, the Commission finds that the Agreement meets the requirements of the Act in that it does not discriminate against a nonparty carrier and implementation of the Agreement is not inconsistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity.

So that the parties may proceed under the terms of the Agreement without further delay, the Commission finds it reasonable to make this order effective in less than 30 days.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The Interconnection Agreement between STE Communications and Level 3 Communications, LLC, filed on March 12, 2025, is approved.
2. This order shall become effective on May 26, 2025.
3. This file may be closed on May 27, 2025.



BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "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 16th day of May, 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 16th day of May 2025.



Nancy Dippell

Nancy Dippell
Secretary

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

May 16, 2025

File/Case No. IK-2025-0248

MO PSC Staff

Staff Counsel Department
200 Madison Street, Suite 800
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
staffcounsel@psc.mo.gov

**Office of the Public Counsel
(OPC)**

Marc Poston
200 Madison Street, Suite 650
P.O. Box 2230
Jefferson City, MO 65102
opc@opc.mo.gov

Level 3 Communications, LLC

Legal Department
100 CenturyLink Drive
Monroe, LA 71203

MO PSC Staff

Tracy Johnson
200 Madison Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101
tracy.johnson@psc.mo.gov

**STE Communications
(Exchange)**

W England
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102
trip@brydonlaw.com

**STE Communications
(Exchange)**

Brian McCartney
312 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 65102
bmccartney@brydonlaw.com

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

Sincerely,



**Nancy Dippell
Secretary**

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