

**Debbie Neumann**

---

**From:** Carl Lumley  
**Sent:** Monday, July 02, 2007 8:26 AM  
**To:** Debbie Neumann  
**Subject:** FW: Interconnection Agreement

Exhibit 3

-----Original Message-----

From: Trip England [mailto:trip@brydonlaw.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, June 26, 2007 2:25 PM  
To: 'Jerry Howe'; 'Lisa Winberry'  
Cc: Carl Lumley  
Subject: RE: Interconnection Agreement

Jerry,

Thank you for your e-mail and draft proposed interconnection agreement between Big River and BPS Telephone Company dated June 22. I was tied up all last week with prehearing/settlement conferences with Missouri American Water Company, so I am just now getting around to reviewing your e-mail and the proposed agreement.

As we have previously indicated, BPS has a rural exemption from any interconnection obligation under Section 251(f)(1) of the Telecommunications Act and is not willing to voluntarily waive that exemption. Pursuant to that section of the Act, BPS has no obligation to negotiate an interconnection agreement with Big River until a bona fide request for interconnection has been received, and, pursuant to Section 251(f)(1)(B), Big River notifies the Missouri Public Service Commission and the Commission determines that the request for interconnection is not unduly economically burdensome, is technically feasible, and consistent with Universal Service. Until such time as BPS's rural exemption is terminated by the Commission, we do not believe that BPS is under any obligation to negotiate an interconnection agreement, nor that the statutory timetable is triggered.

Should you or Carl have any questions regarding this matter or wish to discuss it more thoroughly, please call at your convenience.

Sincerely,  
TRIP

-----Original Message-----

From: Jerry Howe [mailto:jhowe@bigrivertelephone.com]  
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2007 1:40 PM  
To: 'Trip'; 'Lisa Winberry'  
Cc: 'Carl Lumley'  
Subject: Interconnection Agreement

We would like to continue the discussion on the negotiation of the Interconnection Agreement that we approached BPS with last year. For your review, I have attached a draft agreement that we have negotiated with other independent telephone companies. It is relatively brief and covers only the limited issues we need to accomplish interconnection.

Please let me know when we can have a follow on discussion of this agreement.

Jerry Howe  
12444 Powerscourt, Suite 370  
St. Louis, MO 63131  
OFF (314) 225-2203  
CELL (314) 369-7967  
FAX (314) 225-2233