

**STATE OF ILLINOIS  
ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION**

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**GALLATIN RIVER COMMUNICATIONS, L.L.C. )  
D/B/A CENTURYLINK GRC. )**

**and )**

**CENTURYLINK COMMUNICATIONS, LLC )  
D/B/A MADISON RIVER COMMUNICATIONS. )**

**DOCKET No. 14-0497**

**JOINT PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF  
INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT**

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**VERIFIED STATEMENT OF A. OLUSANJO OMONIYI**

My name is A. Olusanjo Omoniyi and I am employed by the Illinois Commerce Commission as a Policy Analyst in the Telecommunications Division. I graduated from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Cinema & Photography and Bachelor of Science degree in Radio-Television in 1987. In 1990, I obtained a Master of Arts degree in Telecommunications and a Juris Doctor in 1994 also from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Among my duties as a Policy Analyst is to review negotiated agreements and provide a recommendation as to their approval.

**SYNOPSIS OF THE AGREEMENT**

The instant Agreement filed August 6, 2014 (the “Agreement”) between GALLATIN RIVER COMMUNICATIONS, L.L.C. D/B/A CENTURYLINK GRC (“CENTURYLINK.” or “Carrier”) and CENTURYLINK COMMUNICATIONS, LLC D/B/A MADISON RIVER COMMUNICATIONS. (“CCI” or “Requesting Carrier”) (“Agreement”) was reached through good faith negotiations between the parties as contemplated by Section 252(a) of the Act. The

Agreement between the parties provides for the interconnection of their networks for the transmission and termination of local traffic on each other's networks.

The "Effective Date" of this Agreement for all purposes will be the latest date reflected by the signing parties which according to the parties as soon as the Commission takes approves the Agreement. This Agreement shall be in effect only until a permanent interconnection agreement between the parties takes effect, either by negotiation or arbitration as provided in this Agreement in Article III: General Terms & Conditions under Section 7- Effective Date, Term and Termination.

The purpose of my verified statement is to examine the Amendment based on the standards enunciated in Section 252(e)(2)(A) and (B) of the 1996 Telecommunications Act.

Specifically, this Section states that:

(2) GROUNDS FOR REJECTION - The State commission may only reject—

(A) an agreement (or any portion thereof) adopted by negotiation under subsection (a) if it finds that--

(i) the agreement (or portion thereof) discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement; or

(ii) the implementation of such agreement or portion is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity; or

(B) an agreement (or any portion thereof) adopted by arbitration under subsection (b) if it finds that the agreement does not meet the requirements of section 251, including the regulations prescribed by the Commission pursuant to section 251, or the standards set forth in subsection (d) of this section.

Also, under authority granted to the Commission by Section 252(e)(3) of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, this Amendment has been reviewed for consistency with the requirements of the Illinois Public Utilities Act, 220 ILCS 5, and regulations, rules and orders adopted pursuant thereof.

## **I APPROVAL UNDER SECTION 252(e)**

### **A. DISCRIMINATION**

The first issue that must be addressed by the Commission in approving or rejecting a negotiated agreement under Section 252(e)(2)(A) is whether it discriminates against a telecommunications carrier that is not a party to the agreement. Discrimination is generally defined as giving preferential treatment to the requesting carrier to the detriment of a telecommunications carrier that is not a party to the agreement. In previous dockets, Staff has taken the position that in order to determine if a negotiated agreement is discriminatory, the Commission should determine if all similarly situated carriers are allowed to purchase the service under the same terms and conditions as provided in the agreement. I recommend that the Commission use the same approach when evaluating this negotiated Agreement.

A carrier should be deemed to be similarly situated to CCI for purposes of this Agreement if telecommunications traffic is exchanged between such carrier and CENTURYLINK for termination on each other's networks and if such carrier imposes costs on CENTURYLINK that are no higher than the costs imposed by CCI. If a similarly situated carrier is allowed to purchase the service(s) under the same terms and conditions as provided in this contract, then this contract should not be considered discriminatory. Evaluating the term discrimination in this manner is consistent with the economic theory of discrimination. Economic theory defines discrimination as the practice of charging different prices (or the same prices) for various units of a single product when the price differences (or same prices) are not justified by cost. See, Dolan, Edwin G. and David E. Lindsey, *Microeconomics*, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, The Dryden Press, Orlando, FL (1991) at pg. 586. Since Section 252(i) of the 1996

Telecommunications Act allows similarly situated carriers to enter into essentially the same contract, this Agreement should not be deemed discriminatory.

## **B. PUBLIC INTEREST**

The second issue that needs to be addressed by the Commission in approving or rejecting a negotiated agreement under Section 252(e)(2)(A) is whether it is contrary to the public interest, convenience, and necessity. I recommend that the Commission examine the Agreement on the basis of economic efficiency, equity, past Commission orders, and state and federal law to determine if the Agreement is consistent with the public interest. Nothing in this Agreement leads me to the conclusion that the Agreement is inequitable, inconsistent with past Commission Orders, or in violation of state or federal law. Therefore, I recommend that the Commission approve this Agreement.

## **II IMPLEMENTATION**

In order to implement the CENTURYLINK-CCI Agreement, the Commission should require CENTURYLINK to, within five (5) days from the date the agreement is approved; modify its tariffs to reference the negotiated agreement for each service affected. Such a requirement is consistent with the Commission's Orders in previous negotiated agreement dockets and allows interested parties access to the Agreement. The following section of CENTURYLINK's tariffs should reference the CENTURYLINK –CCI Traffic Exchange Agreement: Agreements with Telecommunications Carriers. (ICC No. 2 Section 16).

Also, in order to assure that the implementation of the Agreement is in public interest, CENTURYLINK should implement the Agreement by filing a verified statement with the Chief Clerk of the Commission, within five (5) days of approval by the Commission, that the approved Agreement is the same as the Agreement filed in this docket with the verified petition; the Chief

Clerk should place the Agreement on the Commission's web site under Interconnection Agreements. For the reasons enumerated above, I recommend that the Commission approve this Agreement pursuant to Section 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

VERIFICATION

STATE OF ILLINOIS            )  
  ) SS  
COUNTY OF COOK            )

I, A. Olusanjo Omoniyi, do on oath depose and state that if called as a witness herein, I would testify to the facts contained in the foregoing document based upon personal knowledge.

  
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SIGNED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS 4TH DAY OF  
SEPTEMBER, 2014.

  
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NOTARY PUBLIC

