

BEFORE THE NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

In Re: *Approval of the Interconnection Agreement Negotiated by Missouri Valley Communications, Inc. and its subsidiaries and affiliates and Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless, Pursuant to Section 251(b)(5) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996*

PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF THE INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT
NEGOTIATED BY MISSOURI VALLEY COMMUNICATIONS, INC. AND ITS
SUBSIDIARIES AND AFFILIATES AND CELLCO PARTNERSHIP d/b/a
VERIZON WIRELESS, PURSUANT TO SECTION 251(b)(5) OF THE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996

Missouri Valley Communications, Inc. and its subsidiaries and affiliates (“Missouri Valley”) respectfully files this request with the North Dakota Public Service Commission for approval of the attached Interconnection Agreement (the “Agreement”). The Agreement was negotiated between Missouri Valley and Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (“Verizon Wireless”) pursuant to Section 251(b)(5) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (“the Act”). The Agreement provides for the continued interconnection of the two companies’ networks, thereby facilitating Verizon Wireless’ provision of Commercial Mobile Radio Services (“CMRS”) to customers in North Dakota. Missouri Valley, therefore, respectfully requests that the Commission act within the 90 days specified by the Act and approve the Agreement.

In support of its request, Missouri Valley states the following:

THE PARTIES

1. Missouri Valley is a local exchange carrier authorized to provide local exchange service in North Dakota.
2. Verizon Wireless is a telecommunications carrier that has been granted authority by the Federal Communications Commission to provide CMRS in a specific market in North Dakota.

THE AGREEMENT

3. Missouri Valley and Verizon Wireless have successfully negotiated the Agreement for the continued interconnection of their networks. A copy of the Agreement is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.
4. Missouri Valley and Verizon Wireless have entered into this Agreement, pursuant to Section 251(b)(5) of the Act.

5. Pursuant to Section 252(e) of the Act, Missouri Valley is submitting the Agreement to the North Dakota Public Service Commission for its consideration and approval.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE ACT

6. First, as required by Section 252(e)(2)(a)(i) of the Act, the Agreement does not discriminate against any other telecommunications carrier.
7. Second, the Agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity, as required by Section 252(e)(2)(a) (ii) of the Act.

APPROVAL OF THE AGREEMENT

8. In accordance with Section 252(e) of the Act, the North Dakota Public Service Commission is charged with approving or rejecting the Agreement between Missouri Valley and Verizon Wireless within 90 days of its submission. The Act provides that the North Dakota Public Service Commission may reject such Agreement only if it finds that the Agreement or any portion thereof discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the Agreement, or if it finds that the implementation of the Agreement or any portion thereof is not consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity.

9. Missouri Valley and Verizon Wireless aver that the Agreement is consistent with the standards for approval.

10. Pursuant to Section 252(i) of the Act, once the Agreement is approved, Missouri Valley will make the terms and conditions of the Agreement available to any similarly situated CMRS provider.

11. Missouri Valley respectfully requests that the North Dakota Public Service Commission approve the Agreement negotiated between the parties without revision as expeditiously as possible consistent with the public interest.

This 4th day of December, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

MISSOURI VALLEY COMMUNICATIONS, INC. AND ITS
SUBSIDIARIES AND AFFILIATES

By: _____

Tammy C. Crump
Consultant for Missouri Valley Communications, Inc.
John Staurulakis, Inc.
4625 Alexander Drive, Suite 135
Alpharetta, GA 30022

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Tammy C. Crump, hereby certify that I have served a copy of the foregoing Petition for Approval of the Interconnection Agreement on the following via United States Mail:

Mary Bacigalupi
Verizon Wireless
2785 Mitchell Drive, MS 7-1
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Tammy C. Crump
Regulatory Consultant
John Staurulakis, Inc.
4625 Alexander Drive
Suite 135
Alpharetta, GA 30022

Date