

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

September 7, 2012

IN RE:

**APPLICATION OF BRISTOL TENNESSEE
ESSENTIAL SERVICES FOR EXPANDED
CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE
AND NECESSITY TO PROVIDE COMPETING
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES STATEWIDE**

**DOCKET NO.
12-00060**

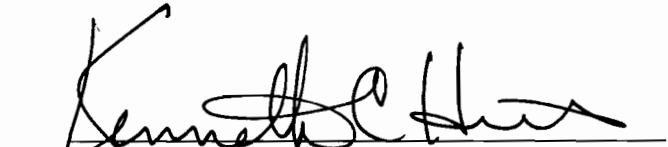
**ORDER CONVENING A CONTESTED CASE
AND APPOINTING A HEARING OFFICER**

This matter came before Chairman Kenneth C. Hill, Director Herbert H. Hilliard and Director James M. Allison of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the "Authority"), the voting panel assigned to this docket, at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on August 20, 2012 for the purpose of determining whether to convene a contested case hearing and appoint a Hearing Officer. On June 20, 2012, Bristol Tennessee Essential Services filed an Application to modify its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to expand its service area outside of Sullivan County, Tennessee, and provide telecommunications services on a statewide basis. Petitions to intervene were filed on July 31, 2012 by United Telephone Southeast LLC d/b/a CenturyLink, CenturyTel of Adamsville, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink Adamsville, CenturyTel of Claiborne, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink Claiborne, and CenturyTel of Ooltewah-Collegedale, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink Ooltewah-Collegedale (collectively "CenturyLink") and on August 16, 2012 by the Tennessee Cable Telecommunications Association.


During the Authority Conference, the Directors voted unanimously to convene a contested case proceeding and to appoint the Authority's General Counsel or her designee to

serve as Hearing Officer for the purpose of preparing the case for hearing, including but not limited to, entering a protective order, establishing a procedural schedule, and ruling on intervention requests and discovery issues.

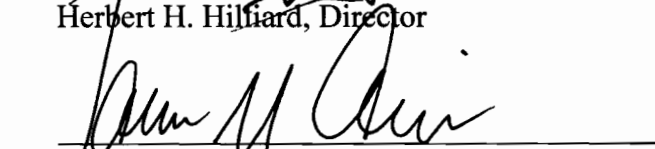
IT IS SO ORDERED.



Kenneth C. Hill, Chairman



Herbert H. Hilliard, Director



James M. Allison, Director