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Decision 91-10-014 October 11, 1991

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of )  
ATC Long Distance for a Certificate )  
of Public Convenience and Necessity ) Application 91-06-013  
to provide Intrastate, InterLATA ) (filed June 7, 1991)  
Telecommunications Service within )  
California. )

OPINION

Advanced Telecommunications Corporation, doing business as ATC Long Distance (applicant), a Delaware corporation, seeks a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) under Public Utilities (PU) Code § 1001 to permit it to provide intrastate, interLATA telecommunications services (presubscribed "1+" resale of long-distance service with operator assistance and alternative operator services) within California. Applicant also seeks exemption from the requirements of PU Code §§ 816-830, dealing with the issuance of stocks and other evidences of ownership and bonds, notes, and other evidences of indebtedness.

Articles of Incorporation, a Certificate of Qualification to Transact Intrastate Business in California, and a Certificate of Good Standing in Delaware are attached to the application.

In Decision (D.) 90-08-032, the Commission established two major criteria for determining whether a CPCN should be granted. The applicant must demonstrate that it has a minimum of \$400,000 in uncommitted cash or equivalent financial resources. This minimum requirement increases 5% per year starting in 1991. Thus, the current minimum requirement is \$420,000. In addition, an applicant is required to make a reasonable showing of technical expertise in telecommunications or related business.

Applicant's financial statement for the three years ended March 31, 1990, and its 1990 annual report and proxy statement are

attached to the application show uncommitted cash or equivalent financial resources in excess of Commission requirements set forth in D.90-08-032. The submitted data also comprises a reasonable showing of technical expertise in telecommunications. Applicant, for example, currently serves customers in seven states - Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas. Its telecommunications revenues for the year ended March 31, 1990 were \$332,742,000.

We will authorize the interLATA service that applicant seeks to provide; but to the extent that the application seeks authority to provide intraLATA service, we will deny it.

On April 13, 1988, the Director of the Commission's Advisory and Compliance Division (ACAD) sent a letter directing all AOS companies which provide intrastate services in California to file applications for certificates of public convenience and necessity and proposed tariffs for their intrastate services within 60 days. ACAD should continue its review, since this order provides that we required an applicant's tariff schedules for the provision of AOS operator services be subject to pre-filing review and approval of the Chief of the ACAD's Telecommunications Branch. Upon receipt of a letter from the Chief of the Telecommunications Branch indicating ACAD's approval of the AOS-related tariff schedules, an applicant is authorized to file with this Commission its tariff schedules for the provision of such services. An applicant may not offer AOS-related service until these tariffs are on file. We shall require that applicant in this proceeding follow this tariff pre-filing review.

This decision requires the persons who provide operator service on behalf of the applicant to clearly identify themselves as a Advanced Telecommunications operator to the caller. This notice to the end user is a reasonable way of alerting the consumer to the fact that operator services are not being provided by the dominant carrier or the LEC and that charges may vary from those

assessed by the dominant carrier/LEC. Significant differences in rates are quite possible when the caller is not using a pay phone, as such as when the call is placed from a hotel room, since the Commission has only limited the rates charged for AOS services provided at pay telephones. Operator identification will also facilitate the resolution of customer complaints, if any occur.

Findings of Fact

1. Applicant served a copy of the application upon 152 telephone corporations with which it is likely to compete.
2. A notice of the filing of the application appeared in the Daily Calendar on June 12, 1991.
3. No protests have been filed.
4. A hearing is not required.
5. On June 29, 1983, the Commission issued Order Instituting Investigation (OII) 83-06-01 to determine whether competition should be allowed in the provision of telecommunication transmission service within the state. Many applications to provide competitive service were consolidated with OII 83-06-01.
6. By interim D.84-01-037, and later decisions, we granted those applications, authorizing interLATA entry generally. However, we limited the authority conferred to interLATA service, and we subjected the applicants to the condition that they not hold themselves out to the public to provide intraLATA service, pending our final decision in OII 83-06-01.
7. By D.84-06-113 we denied the applications to the extent that they sought authority to provide competitive intraLATA telecommunications service. We also directed those persons or corporations not authorized to provide intraLATA telecommunication service to refrain from holding out the availability of such service; and we required them to advise their subscribers that intraLATA calls should be placed over the facilities of the local exchange company.

8. There is no basis for treating this applicant differently than those that filed earlier.

9. Applicant has a minimum of \$420,000 in uncommitted cash or equivalent financial resources, as required by D.90-08-032, pp. 34, 52, 56-57, in R.85-08-042.

10. Applicant has made a reasonable showing of technical expertise in telecommunications, as required by D.90-08-032, pp. 34-35, 52, 57, in R.85-08-042. This showing includes a complete draft of applicant's initial tariff. (Id., pp.34)

11. Applicant is technically and financially able to provide the proposed services.

12. Since no facilities are to be constructed, it can be seen with certainty that the proposed operation will not have a significant effect upon the environment.

13. Exemption from the provisions of PU Code §§ 816-830 has been granted to other resellers. (See, e.g. D.86-10-007 and D.88-12-076.)

14. This applicant should be treated in the same way as others who seek to provide AOS and to originate and terminate interLATA calls within California, except that the applicant shall direct persons who provide operator service on its behalf to identify themselves clearly as a "Advanced Telecommunications Operator" to the caller when first connected to the caller. This requirement should become a part of the standard conditions of approval of applications such as this one.

15. Public convenience and necessity require the service to be offered by applicant.

Conclusions of Law

1. Applicant is a telephone corporation operating as a direct telecommunication service supplier.

2. Applicant is subject to:
  - a. The current 3.0% surcharge applicable to service rates of intraLATA toll and intrastate interLATA toll (PU Code § 879; Resolution T-14400);
  - b. The current 0.3% surcharge on gross intrastate interLATA revenues to fund Telecommunications Devices for the Deaf (PU Code § 2881; Resolution T-13061); and,
  - c. The user fee provided in PU Code §§ 431-435, which is 0.1% of gross intrastate revenue for the 1991-92 fiscal year (Resolution M-4757).
3. The application should be granted to the extent set forth below.
4. Because of the public interest in competitive interLATA service, the following order should be effective immediately.

The State may grant any number of operative rights and may cancel or modify the monopoly feature of those rights at any time.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. A certificate of public convenience and necessity is granted to Advanced Telecommunications Corporation (applicant) to operate as a reseller of the interLATA telecommunication service offered by communication common carriers in California, subject to the following conditions:
  - a. Applicant shall offer and provide its services only on an interLATA basis;
  - b. Applicant shall not provide intraLATA services;
  - c. Applicant shall not hold out to the public that it has authority to provide, or that it does provide, intraLATA services; and

- d. Applicant shall advise its subscribers that they should place their intraLATA calls over the facilities of the local exchange company.

2. To the extent that applicant requests authority to provide intraLATA telecommunication service, it is denied.

3. In connection with its provision of AOS, applicant shall adhere to the following four conditions:

- a. All intraLATA calling shall be directed by applicant to the LEC for completion by the LEC as intraLATA calling. As used herein "intraLATA calling" shall mean all calls that originate and terminate within the same LATA. The routing of intraLATA calls to the local exchange carrier requires that (1) all such calls be routed either directly or indirectly as dialed by the end user customer to the local exchange carrier and may not be routed to any other person or entity for call processing, billing, transmission, or completion, and (2) all such routing be accomplished in a manner that permits application of the local exchange carrier's charges for intraLATA calling by the local exchange carrier from the central office where the call originates to the central office or wire center serving the device where the call terminates. In addition, the routing of intraLATA calls to the local exchange carrier shall be done in a manner which permits the performance by the local exchange carrier of functions for which a local exchange carrier charge applies (including, without limitation, all intraLATA operator and operator surcharge functions). By way of example, and without limitation, applicant shall not, by itself or in conjunction with any other entity or person, permit, allow, or hold out the availability over its network of any routing arrangement that directs intraLATA calls as dialed by an end user customer to any person or entity other than the local exchange carrier.

- b. Applicant shall not offer, hold out, provide, or otherwise make available intraLATA operator-handled calls. As used herein intraLATA operator-handled calls (also referred to as "nonsent paid calls"), whether handled mechanically or manually, include all intraLATA credit card, bill third number, collect, station-to-station, person-to-person, conference calls, or any combination thereof. The routing of intraLATA operator-handled calls (nonsent paid calls) by the LEC requires that (1) all such calls as dialed by the end user customer be routed to the LEC and to no other person or entity, including applicant, (2) routing shall be accomplished in a manner that permits application of the LEC's operator charges, and (3) such nonsent paid calls shall be billed by the LEC to the number or account designated by the calling person and acceptable by the LEC. InterLATA operator-handled calls may be provided by applicant, so long as those who provide operator service on behalf of applicant clearly identify themselves as applicant operators when first connected to the caller.
- c. Applicant shall inform all customers who inquire that intraLATA calls and intraLATA operator-handled calls are to be provided by the LEC. In addition, applicant shall take all necessary action to ensure that such calls are returned to the LEC's central office serving the calling party for completion and billing by the LEC as an intraLATA call.
- d. For completion of calls from nonutility pay phones, applicant will charge end users no more for interLATA intrastate calling than the tariffed rates of AT&T Communications, Inc., plus any additional amounts permitted by the Commission.
4. Within 30 days after this order is effective, applicant shall file a written acceptance of the certificate granted in this proceeding.

5. a. Applicant is authorized to file with this Commission, 5 days after the effective date of this order, tariff schedules for the provision of interLATA service. Applicant may not offer service until tariffs are on file. If applicant has an effective FCC-approved tariff, it may file a notice adopting such FCC tariff with a copy of the FCC tariff included in the filing. Such adoption notice shall specifically exclude the provision of intraLATA service. If applicant has no effective FCC tariffs, or wishes to file tariffs applicable only to California intrastate interLATA service, it is authorized to do so, including rates, rules, regulations, and other provisions necessary to offer service to the public. Applicant's initial filing shall be made in accordance with General Order (GO) 96-A, excluding Sections IV, V, and VI, and shall be effective not less than 1 day after filing.

b. Applicant is a non-dominant interexchange carrier (NDIEC). The effectiveness of its future tariffs is subject to the schedules set forth in Ordering Paragraph 5 of D.90-08-032, as follows:

"5. All NDIECs are hereby placed on notice that their California tariff filings will be processed in accordance with the following effectiveness schedule:

- "a. Inclusion of FCC-approved rates in California Public Utilities [Commission] tariff schedules shall become effective on one (1) day's notice,
- "b. Uniform rate reductions for existing services shall become effective on five (5) days' notice,
- "c. Uniform rate increases for existing services shall become effective on thirty (30) days' notice, and shall require bill inserts or first class mail notice to customers of the pending increased rates, and



"d. Advice letter filings for new services and for all other types of tariff revisions shall become effective on forty (40) days' notice."

6. Applicant may deviate from the following provisions of GO 96-A: (a) paragraph II.C.(1)(b), which requires consecutive sheet numbering and prohibits the reuse of sheet numbers, and (b) paragraph II.C.(4), which requires that "a separate sheet or series of sheets should be used for each rule." Tariff filings incorporating these deviations shall be subject to the approval of the Commission Advisory and Compliance Division's (CACD) Telecommunications Branch. Tariff filings shall reflect all fees and surcharges to which applicant is subject.

7. The requirements of GO 96-A relative to the effectiveness of tariffs after filing are waived to the extent that changes in FCC tariffs may become effective on the same date for California interLATA service for those companies that adopt the FCC tariffs.

8. Applicant shall file as part of its individual tariff, after the effective date of this order and consistent with Ordering Paragraph 4, a service area map.

9. Applicant shall notify this Commission in writing of the date service is first rendered to the public within 5 days after service begins.

10. Applicant shall keep its books and records in accordance with the Uniform System of Accounts specified in Part 32 of the FCC rules.

11. Applicant shall file an annual report, in compliance with GO 104-A, on a calendar-year basis using the information request form developed by the CACD Auditing and Compliance Branch and contained in Attachment A.

12. The certificate granted and the authority to render service under the rates, charges, and rules authorized will expire if not exercised within 12 months after the effective date of this order.

13. Applicant shall send a copy of this decision to concerned local permitting agencies not later than 30 days from today.

14. The corporate identification number assigned to applicant is U 5243 C which shall be included in the caption of all original filings with this Commission, and in the titles of other pleadings filed in existing cases.

15. Within 60 days of the effective date of this order, applicant shall comply with PU Code § 708, Employee Identification Cards, and notify the Chief of CACD's Telecommunications Branch in writing of its compliance.

16. Applicant is exempted from the provisions of PU Code §§ 816-830.

17. The application is granted, as set forth above.

This order is effective today.

Dated October 11, 1991, at San Francisco, California.

JOHN B. OHANIAN  
DANIEL Wm. FESSLER  
NORMAN D. SHUMWAY  
Commissioners

Commissioner Patricia M. Eckert,  
being necessarily absent, did  
not participate.

I CERTIFY THAT THIS DECISION  
WAS APPROVED BY THE ABOVE  
COMMISSIONERS TODAY

NEAL S. GOODMAN, Executive Director

pb

A.91-06-013 ALJ/WRI/gab \*

TO: ALL INTEREXCHANGE TELEPHONE UTILITIES

Article 5 of the Public Utilities Code grants authority to the California Public Utilities Commission to require all public utilities doing business in California to file reports as specified by the Commission on the utilities' California operations.

A specific annual report form has not yet been prescribed for the California interexchange telephone utilities. However, you are hereby directed to submit an original and two copies of the information requested in Attachment A no later than March 31st of the year following the calendar year for which the annual report is submitted.

Address your report to:

California Public Utilities Commission  
Auditing and Compliance Branch, Room 3251  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102-3298

Failure to file this information on time may result in a penalty as provided for in §§ 2107 and 2108 of the Public Utilities Code.

If you have any question concerning this matter, please call (415) 703-1961.

ATTACHMENT A

Information Requested of California Interexchange Telephone Utilities.

To be filed with the California Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 3251, San Francisco, CA 94102-3298, no later than March 31st of the year following the calendar year for which the annual report is submitted.

1. Exact legal name and U # of reporting utility.
2. Address.
3. Name, title, address, and telephone number of the person to be contacted concerning the reported information.
4. Name and title of the officer having custody of the general books of account and the address of the office where such books are kept.
5. Type of organization (e.g., corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, etc.).  
If incorporated, specify:
  - a. Date of filing articles of incorporation with the Secretary of State.
  - b. State in which incorporated.
6. Commission decision number granting operating authority and the date of that decision.
7. Date operations were begun.
8. Description of other business activities in which the utility is engaged.
9. A list of all affiliated companies and their relationship to the utility. State if affiliate is:
  - a. Regulated public utility.
  - b. Publicly held corporation.
10. Balance sheet as of December 31st of the year for which information is submitted.
11. Income statement for California operations for the calendar year for which information is submitted.

(END OF APPENDIX A)