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Decision 91-11-052 November 20, 1991

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of

APPLICATION OF LUBBOCK RADIO PAGING SERVICE, INC., dba STENOCALL, FOR A CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO OPERATE AS A RESELLER OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, AND AS AN OPERATOR SERVICE PROVIDER WITHIN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

ORIGINAL

Application 91-07-045 (Filed July 31, 1991)

OPINION

Lubbock Radio Paging Service, Inc., doing business as STENOCALL (applicant), requests that the Commission issue a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) under Public Utilities (PU) Code § 1001 for authority to operate as a reseller of telecommunications services and to provide operator assistance services within California.

Applicant states that such authority could include 24-hour originating and terminating intrastate interLATA calls of business and residential customers. Applicant initially plans to provide service to only one facility, the Rip Griffin Truck/Travel Center in Barstow, California. Applicant will provide service by reselling calls routed over facilities owned by other carriers. Applicant is not a facilities-based carrier and has no proposed facility construction or extension.

Applicant further states that for purposes of financial requirements articulated in Decision (D.) 90-08-032, applicant's readily available financial resources consist of \$303,000 in cash which is shown on its December 31, 1990 balance sheet, plus a \$500,000 line of credit available to applicant from the Texas Commerce Bank in Lubbock, Texas. Accordingly, applicant asserts that it possesses available unencumbered cash in the amount of

\$803,000, the \$500,000 line of credit plus the \$303,000 in cash reflected on the balance sheet. Applicant believes that it satisfies the \$420,000 requirement referenced in D.90-08-032 as modified by D.91-10-041.

Applicant agrees that in compliance with prior orders of the Commission, applicant will not provide intraLATA telecommunications service and will refrain from holding out the availability of such services, and will advise its customers that intraLATA communications should be placed over the facilities of the local exchange company (LEC).

Notice of the filing of this application appeared in the Commission's Daily Calendar of August 7, 1991. There are no protests.

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. By interim decision D.84-01-037 and later decisions, we granted those applications, limiting the authority conferred to interLATA service and subjecting the applicants to the condition that they not hold themselves out to the public to provide intraLATA service, pending our decision in OII 83-06-01.

On June 13, 1984, we issued D.84-06-113 in OII 83-06-01, denying the applications to the extent not previously granted. We also directed persons not authorized to provide intraLATA telecommunication service to refrain from holding out the availability of such service; we required them to advise their subscribers that intraLATA calls should be placed over the facilities of the LEC.

There is no basis for treating this applicant differently than those that filed earlier. Therefore, we will authorize

interLATA service; 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 (CACD) sent a letter directing all Alternate Operator Service (AOS) companies which provide intrastate services in California to file applications for CPCNs and proposed tariffs for their intrastate services within 60 days. CACD should continue its review, since this order provides that we require an applicant's tariff schedules for the provision of AOS operator services be subject to prefiling review and approval of the Chief of the CACD's Telecommunications Branch. Upon receipt of a letter from the Chief of the Telecommunications Branch indicating CACD'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 prefiling review.

Applicant is authorized to file with this Commission, five days after the effective date of this order, tariff schedules for the provision of other interLATA service, unconnected with its proposed AOS-related service. However, applicant may not offer such service until tariffs are on file.

This application is granted to authorize interLATA service, including interLATA AOS services, subject to the same terms and conditions as those we have imposed on similar applications. The four conditions on service previously applied to approvals of CPCN for AOS and interLATA reseller services appear in Ordering Paragraph 3. A minor amendment has been made to the subparagraph. However, as in prior Commission decisions, (D.88-12-043, Intellicall, et al.), the applicant may provide interLATA operator-handled calls. This decision requires that the persons who provide operator service on behalf of the applicant,

clearly identify themselves as a STENOCALL communications 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, 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.

Applicant is placed on notice that this Commission may review issues affecting the AOS industry in more general terms in Investigation (I.) 88-04-029 or another appropriate proceeding. Nothing in today's decision should be construed as a prejudgment on our part of issues already identified in I.88-04-029 or other generic issues, as such issues may ultimately affect applicant.

#### Findings of Fact

1. By D.84-01-037 the Commission authorized interLATA entry generally.
2. By D.84-06-113 the Commission denied applications to provide competitive interLATA telecommunication service, and required persons not authorized to provide intraLATA telecommunication service to refrain from holding out the availability of such service, and to advise their subscribers that intraLATA calls should be placed over the facilities of the LEC.
3. 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 STENOCALL communications 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.

4. Applicant's balance sheet for year-end December 31, 1990 shows total assets of \$2,051,979.42 and liabilities of \$503,299.49. Applicant's readily available financial resources consist of \$303,000 in cash plus a \$500,000 line of credit.

5. As a telephone corporation operating as a telecommunication service supplier, applicant is subject to:

- a. The current 3.4% surcharge applicable to service rates of intralATA toll and intrastate interLATA toll (PU Code \$ 879);
- 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.

Conclusion of Law

This application should be granted to the extent set forth below.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. A certificate of public convenience and necessity is granted to Lubbock Radio Paging Service, Inc., doing business as STENOCALL (applicant), to operate as a reseller of the interLATA telecommunication service offered by communication 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 (LEC).

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

3. In connection with its provision of Alternate Operator Service, 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 LEC requires that:

- (1) All such calls be routed either directly or indirectly as dialed by the end user customer to the LEC 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 LEC's charges for intraLATA calling by the LEC 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 LEC shall be done in a manner which permits the performance by the LEC of functions for which a LEC charge applies (including, without limitation, all intraLATA operator and operator surcharge function). 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 the intraLATA calls as dialed by an end user customer to any person or entity other than the LEC.

- 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 charge; 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. 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.

6. Applicant's preliminary statement in its tariff shall include the following:

Lubbock Radio Paging Service, Inc., doing business as STENOCALL, has been granted authority by the California Public Utilities Commission to provide interLATA service within the State of California. STENOCALL does not hold itself out as offering intraLATA service. IntraLATA communications should be placed over the facilities of the local exchange company.

7. 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. Such 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.



8. 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 required 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 surcharges to which applicant is subject, as reflected in Finding of Fact 4.

9. 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.

10. 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.

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

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

13. 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.

14. 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.

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

16. The corporate identification number assigned to applicant is U-5247-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.

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

This order is effective today.

Dated November 20, 1991, at San Francisco, California.

PATRICIA M. ECKERT  
President

DANIEL Wm. FESSLER  
NORMAN D. SHUMWAY  
Commissioners

Commissioner John B. Ohanian,  
being necessarily absent, did  
not participate.

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

  
NEIL J. SHULMAN, Executive Director

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 questions 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:

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- a. Regulated public utility.
  - b. Public 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 ATTACHMENT A)