

AUG 11 1992

Decision 92-08-024 August 11, 1992

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of WATS/800, INC., an )  
Indiana Corporation, for Authority )  
for a Certificate of Public )  
Convenience and Necessity to Resell )  
Long Distance Message Toll Service )  
in the State of California. )

**ORIGINAL**

Application 91-09-066  
(Filed September 27, 1991)

O P I N I O N

WATS/800, Inc., (applicant), an Indiana corporation, licensed to do business in California, seeks a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) under Public Utilities (PU) Code § 1001 to permit it to resell interLATA telephone services in California.<sup>1</sup> Applicant requests that its books and records be kept at its principal place of business in Indiana. Applicant challenges the Commission's authority to regulate switchless resellers. Applicant requests a waiver of the requirement to serve a copy of its application on potential competitors and other interested parties. 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.

Pacific Bell (Pacific) protests the application. Pacific alleges that applicant is attempting to obtain authorization to provide intraLATA telecommunications services by not acknowledging

<sup>1</sup> California is divided into ten Local Access and Transport Areas (LATAs) of various sizes, each containing numerous local telephone exchanges. "InterLATA" describes services, revenues, and functions that relate to telecommunications originating in one LATA and terminating in another. "IntraLATA" describes services, revenues, and functions that relate to telecommunications originating and terminating within a single LATA.

this Commission's prohibition and requesting authority to terminate calls originating in the state at any point in the state. Pacific asserts that applicant's challenge to the Commission's jurisdiction over switchless resellers is inconsistent with the Commission's recent decision establishing this category, Decision (D.) 91-10-041.

Applicant subsequently amended its application to remove statements protested by Pacific, making these issues moot.

The Commission requires an applicant who does not own, control, operate, or manage telephone lines (switchless reseller) to demonstrate that it has a minimum of \$75,000 in uncommitted cash or equivalent financial resources. This minimum requirement increases 5% per year starting in 1992. Since this application was filed on September 27, 1991, the 1991 financial requirement applies. In addition, an applicant is required to make a reasonable showing of technical expertise in telecommunications or a related business.

Applicant complied with an Administrative Law Judge's (ALJ) Ruling to serve on its competitors a copy of its original and amended applications. The ALJ's Ruling granted the request to waive the portion of Rule 18(b) requiring service on cities and counties. Applicant also submitted a copy of an irrevocable letter of credit from Citizen's National Bank of Evansville, Indiana, which shows \$200,000 in unencumbered cash. Applicant indicates that it currently provides interLATA telecommunications services in the state of Indiana and has operated this business for a number of years.

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.

Findings of Fact

1. Applicant served a copy of the application and its amendment upon telephone corporations with which it is likely to compete.
2. A notice of the filing of the application appeared in the Daily Calendar on October 18, 1991.
3. Pacific's protest is made moot by applicant's amended application.
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 \$75,000 in uncommitted cash or equivalent financial resources, as required by D.90-08-032, as modified by D.91-10-041.

10. Applicant has made a reasonable showing of technical expertise in telecommunications, as required by D.90-08-032, 37 CPUC 2d 130, 147-148, 156, 158, in R.85-08-042. This showing includes a complete draft of applicant's initial tariff. (Id., p. 147.)

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. Exemption from serving cities and counties in the service territory is granted in cases such as this where no construction of facilities will occur and such service is burdensome.

15. Applicant has requested that its books and records be retained at its principal place of business in Indiana.

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

Conclusions of Law

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

2. Applicant is subject to:

- a. The current 4.0% surcharge applicable to service rates of intraLATA toll and intrastate interLATA toll to fund the Universal Lifeline Telephone Service (PU Code § 879; Resolution T-14960);
- 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-4760).

3. The application should be granted to the extent set forth below.

4. It is reasonable for applicant to retain its books and records at its principal place of business.

5. 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.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. A certificate of public convenience and necessity is granted to WATS/800, Inc., (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 its services only on an interLATA basis;
- b. Applicant shall not offer 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. The ALJ's ruling granting applicant's request for waiver regarding service to cities and counties is hereby confirmed.

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

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. 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 modified by D.91-12-013 and D.92-06-034:

\*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 for interstate services in California public utilities 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, except for minor rate increases, for existing services shall become effective on thirty (30) days' notice, and shall require bill inserts, a message on the bill itself, or first class mail notice to customers of the pending increased rates.
- \*d. Uniform minor rate increases, as defined in D.90-11-029, for existing services shall become effective on not less than 5 working days' notice. Customer

notification is not required for such minor rate increases.

- "e. Advice letter filings for new services and for all other types of tariff revisions, except changes in text not affecting rates or relocations of text in the tariff schedules, shall become effective on forty (40) days' notice.
- "f. Advice letter filings merely revising the text or location of text material which do not cause an increase in any rate or charge shall become effective on not less than five (5) 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, as reflected in Conclusion of Law 2.

7. Applicant shall file as part of its individual tariff, after the effective date of this order and consistent with Ordering Paragraph 5, a service area map.

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

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

10. 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.

11. In the event the books and records of the applicant are required for inspection by the Commission or its staff, applicant shall either produce such records at the Commission's offices or reimburse the Commission for the reasonable costs incurred in having Commission staff travel to applicant's office.

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-5284-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 August 11, 1992, at San Francisco, California.

DANIEL Wm. FESSLER  
President  
PATRICIA M. ECKERT  
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

- 9 -  
  
NEAL J. SHULMAN, Executive Director  
PB

**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.

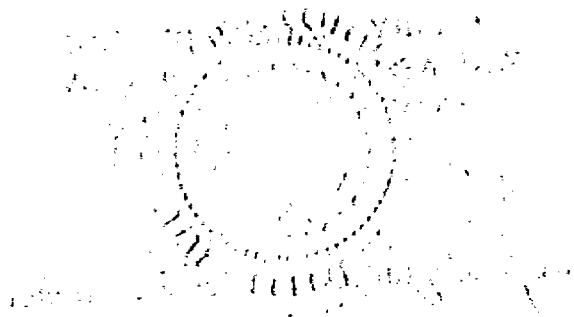
A specific annual report form has not yet been prescribed for the California interexchange telephone utilities. However, you are hereby directed to submit an original and two copies of the information requested in Attachment A no later than March 31st of the year following the calendar year for which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