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Decision 97-07-018 July 16, 1997

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of)
 US ONE Communications Services)
 Corporation for an Immediate)
 Ex Parte Grant of a Certificate of)
 Public Convenience and Necessity)
 to Operate as a Nondominant)
 Interexchange Carrier Offering)
 Switch-Based InterLATA Services)
 in California.)

ORIGINAL

Application 97-02-019
(Filed February 19, 1997)

O P I N I O N

1. Summary

US One Communications Services Corp. (applicant), a Delaware corporation authorized to do business in California, seeks a certificate of public convenience and necessity under Public Utilities (PU) Code § 1001 to permit it to provide facilities-based interLATA service.¹ Granted.

2. Nature of Application

By Decision (D.) 84-01-037, 14 CPUC2d 317 (1984), and later decisions, we authorized 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 be able to provide intraLATA service. Subsequently, by D.94-09-065, 56 CPUC2d 117 (1994), we

¹ California is divided into Local Access and Transport Areas (LATAs) of various sizes, each containing numerous local telephone exchanges. "InterLATA" describes telecommunications service originating in one LATA and terminating in another. "IntraLATA" describes telecommunications service originating and terminating within a single LATA.

authorized competitive intraLATA services effective January 1, 1995.

The Commission has established two major criteria for determining whether certification should be granted for facilities-based service. The applicant must demonstrate that it has a minimum of \$100,000 in cash or cash equivalent (as described in D.91-10-041, Appendix A, Paragraph 5.1 (41 CPUC2d 505, 520)), reasonably liquid and available to meet the firm's start-up expenses. An applicant also must make a reasonable showing of technical expertise in telecommunications or a related business. (D.90-08-032, 36 CPUC2d 130, at 147-48, 156, 158.)

We have recently approved applicant's application to provide facilities-based and resold competitive local exchange and intraLATA toll services in California.² Applicant was given authority to provide interLATA services by leasing transport facilities from other carriers, then using its own switching facilities to route or terminate interexchange traffic within and outside the state.

Applicant does not propose initially to offer interLATA services to end-user customers. Rather, its customers will be other certificated providers of interexchange services. Thus, applicant generally will operate as a "carrier's carrier," providing essentially private carriage. Applicant's switching systems will be located in buildings in the downtown areas of Los Angeles and San Francisco. Apart from the switching systems applicant states that it does not intend to construct any facilities to provide its proposed interexchange services.

Applicant is a wholly owned subsidiary of US One Communications Corp. It demonstrates its financial qualifications

² D.97-04-023, in Application 96-09-047, filed September 20, 1996.

by attaching, as Exhibit F, a pro forma consolidated balance sheet of its parent corporation.³ These data demonstrate that applicant will be able to finance the costs of operation and construction through current assets, which are in excess of the Commission's financial requirements.

Applicant states that it has an experienced management staff. As evident in Exhibit I to the application, these individuals have substantial experience in managing telecommunications networks. Applicant's officers and senior managers have worked with numerous telecommunications companies and with several government agencies, including the Federal Communications Commission.

Applicant has not filed proposed tariffs, asking instead that it be exempted from tariffing requirements pursuant to the Commission's rulemaking decision in D.96-12-033 (December 9, 1996). That decision permits such an exemption, provided that the applicant is bound by the Consumer Protection Rules set forth in Appendix A to D.96-09-098, as they may be in effect from time to time. Applicant's request for exemption from tariffing requirements as to this application for switch-based interLATA service is granted.

Applicant requests a partial waiver of Rule 18(b) in order that it need not serve a copy of the application on city and county planning agencies, since applicant will not be constructing significant plant or network facilities in the state. Pursuant to

³ Applicant filed a motion for a protective order to protect the confidentiality of its Exhibit C (consolidated statements of operation), Exhibit E (projected customer base), Exhibit F (consolidated balance sheet), and Exhibit G (consolidated financial statement). The motion was granted on March 24, 1997, by the Law and Motion Administrative Law Judge.

the Commission's recent order in D.97-06-107, applicants for non-dominant interexchange authority and CLC authority are exempt from the filing requirements of Rule 18(b). Hence, copies of the application need not be served on competitors or on cities and counties.

Applicant also requests that it be allowed to maintain its books under Generally Accepted Accounting Principles instead of the Uniform System of Accounts specified in Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Part 32 accounting requirements (Uniform System of Accounts) have been imposed on all interLATA carriers authorized by this Commission, and applicant has given us no persuasive reason why an exception should be made in this application. The request is denied.

3. Discussion

Applicant has demonstrated that it has the financial and business skills necessary to operate reseller services in California. No protests to the application have been filed. We will authorize the interLATA service that applicant seeks to provide, as set forth in our order below.

Findings of Fact

1. Applicant served a notice of availability of its application on 254 telecommunications corporations with which it may compete.

2. A notice of the filing of the application appeared in the Daily Calendar on February 24, 1997.

3. No protests have been filed.

4. By prior Commission decisions, we authorized competition in providing interLATA telecommunications service but generally barred those offering such service from holding out to the public the provision of intraLATA service.

5. By D.94-09-065, 56 CPUC2d 117 (1994), we authorized competitive intraLATA services effective January 1, 1995, for carriers meeting specified criteria.

6. Applicant has demonstrated that it has a minimum of \$100,000 in cash available to meet its start-up expenses and any deposits required by other telephone carriers.

7. Applicant has demonstrated that its management possesses the requisite technical experience to operate its service.

8. Applicant has requested exemption from tariffing requirements pursuant to D.96-12-033 (December 9, 1996).

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

10. By D.97-06-107, applicants for non-dominant interexchange authority or CLC authority are exempt from Rule 18(b) service requirements.

11. Exemption from the provisions of PU Code §§ 816-830 has been granted to other resellers. (See, e.g., D.86-10-007, 22 CPUC2d 42 (1986) and D.88-12-076, 30 CPUC2d 145 (1988).)

12. No officer of applicant has been involved in any other telecommunications company that has gone out of business or has filed for bankruptcy.

13. The transfer or encumbrance of property of nondominant carriers has been exempted from the requirements of PU Code § 851 whenever such transfer or encumbrance serves to secure debt. (See D.85-11-044, 19 CPUC2d 206 (1985).)

Conclusions of Law

1. No hearing is required.
2. Applicant has the financial ability to provide the proposed service.
3. Applicant has made a reasonable showing of technical expertise in telecommunications.
4. Public convenience and necessity require the interLATA service to be offered by applicant.
5. Applicant is subject to:
 - a. The current 3.2% surcharge applicable to all intrastate services except for those excluded by D.94-09-065 as modified by

D.95-02-050 to fund Universal Lifeline Telephone Service (PU Code § 879; Resolution T-15799, November 21, 1995);

- b. The current 0.36% surcharge applicable to all intrastate services except for those excluded by D.94-09-065 as modified by D.95-02-050 to fund the California Relay Service and Communications Devices Fund (PU Code § 2881; Resolution T-16017, April 9, 1997);
 - c. The user fee provided in PU Code §§ 431-435, which is 0.11% of gross intrastate revenue for the 1997-1998 fiscal year (Resolution 4786);
 - d. The current surcharge applicable to all intrastate services except for those excluded by D.94-09-065, as modified by D.95-02-050, to fund the California High Cost Fund-A (PU Code § 739.30; D.96-10-066, pp. 3-4, App. B, Rule 1.C.; set by Resolution T-15987 at 0.0% for 1997 effective February 1, 1997);
 - e. The current 2.87% surcharge applicable to all intrastate services except for those excluded by D.94-09-065, as modified by D.95-02-050, to fund the California High Cost Fund-B (D.96-10-066, p. 191, App. B, Rule 6.F.); and
 - f. The current 0.41% surcharge applicable to all intrastate services except for those excluded by D.94-09-065, as modified by D.95-02-050, to fund the California Teleconnect Fund (D.96-10-066, p. 88, App. B, Rule 8.G.).
- 6. Applicant is exempt from Rule 18(b).
 - 7. Applicant should be exempted from PU Code §§ 816-830.
 - 8. Applicant should be exempted from PU Code § 851 when the transfer or encumbrance serves to secure debt.

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

10. Because of the public interest in competitive interLATA services, the following order should be effective immediately.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. A certificate of public convenience and necessity is granted to US One Communications Services Corp. (applicant) to operate as a facilities-based reseller of interLocal Access and Transport Area (interLATA) services offered by communications common carriers in California.

2. Applicant shall file a written acceptance of the certificate granted in this proceeding with the Telecommunications Division for placement in the formal file of this proceeding.

3. a. Applicant is exempted from the tariffing requirements of Sections 454, 489, 491 and 495 of the Public Utilities (PU) Code, pursuant to PU Code § 495.7(b)(2), provided, however, that applicant shall be subject to the consumer Protection Rules set forth in Appendix A to D.96-09-098 as such rules may be in effect from time to time.

b. Applicant is a nondominant interexchange carrier (NDIEC). The effectiveness of any future tariffs it may be required to file is subject to the schedules set forth in Ordering Paragraph 5 of D.90-08-032 (37 CPUC2d 130, 158), as modified by D.91-12-013 (42 CPUC2d 220, 231) and D.92-06-034 (44 CPUC2d 617, 618):

"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 notifications 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."

4. Applicant in any future tariff filing 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's Telecommunications Division. Tariff filings shall reflect all fees and surcharges to which applicant is subject, as reflected in Conclusion of Law 5. Applicant is also exempt from GO 96-A, paragraph III.G.(1) and (2) which requires service of advice letters on competing and adjacent utilities, unless such utilities have specifically requested such service.

5. Applicant shall file, after the effective date of this order and consistent with Ordering Paragraph 3, a service area map.

6. Prior to initiating service, applicant shall provide the Commission's Consumer Services Division with the applicant's designated contact person(s) for purposes of resolving consumer complaints and the corresponding telephone number. This information shall be updated if the name or telephone number changes, or at least annually.

7. Applicant shall notify this Commission in writing of the date interLATA services are first rendered to the public within five days after service begins.

8. Applicant shall keep its books and records in accordance with the Uniform System of Accounts specified in Title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 32. Applicant's request to be exempted from this requirement is denied.

9. 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.

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 Commission and contained in Attachment A.

11. Applicant shall ensure that its employees comply with the provisions of PU Code § 2889.5 regarding solicitation of customers.

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. The corporate identification number assigned to applicant is the one given to applicant in D.97-04-023, i.e., U-5742-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.

14. Within 60 days of the effective date of this order, applicant shall comply with PU Code § 708, Employee Identification Cards, and notify the Director of the Telecommunications Division in writing of its compliance.

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

16. Applicant is exempted from PU Code § 851 for the transfer or encumbrance of property, whenever such transfer or encumbrance serves to secure debt.

17. If applicant is 90 days or more late in filing an annual report or in remitting the fees listed in Conclusion of Law 5, the Telecommunications Division shall prepare for Commission consideration a resolution that revokes the applicant's certificate of public convenience and necessity, unless the applicant has received the written permission of the division to file or remit late.

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

19. Application 97-02-019 is closed.

This order is effective today.

Dated July 16, 1997, at San Francisco, California.

P. GREGORY CONLON

President

JESSIE J. KNIGHT, JR.

HENRY M. DUQUE

JOSIAH L. NEEPER

RICHARD A. BILAS

Commissioners

A.97-02-019 ALJ/GEW/sid

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 ATTACHMENT A)