

Decision 97-12-028 December 3, 1997

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of Call and Save Communications, Incorporated, a California Corporation, Inc. for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Provide Telecommunications Services within the State of California.

ORIGINAL
Application 97-04-028
(Filed April 11, 1997)

O P I N I O N

Applicant Call and Save Communications, Inc. (applicant), a California corporation, seeks a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) under Public Utilities (PU) Code § 1001 to permit it to resell long distance intrastate and intraLATA interexchange telecommunications services within California.¹

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 provide intraLATA service. Subsequently, by D.94-09-065, we authorized competitive intraLATA services effective January 1, 1995, for carriers meeting specified criteria.

The Commission has established two major criteria for determining whether a CPCN should be granted. An applicant that is a switchless reseller² must demonstrate

¹ 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.

² D.93-05-010 defines a switchless reseller as a nondominant interexchange carrier (NDIEC) with the following characteristics: it uses the switch of another carrier; it usually, but not always, uses access circuits that the underlying carrier purchases from a local exchange carrier (LEC), it provides service in its own name, and its customers view it as their telephone

Footnote continued on next page

that it has a minimum of \$25,000 of cash or cash equivalent (as described in D.91-10-041, 41 CPUC2d 505, at 520 (1991)), reasonably liquid and readily available to meet the firm's start-up expenses. Such applicants shall also document any deposits required by LECs or IECs and demonstrate that they have additional resources to cover all such deposits. (D.93-05-010, 49 CPUC2d 197, at 208 (1993).) In addition, an applicant is required to make a reasonable showing of technical expertise in telecommunications or a related business.

As part of its supplemental filed information, applicant provided on September 22, 1997, an unaudited balance sheet demonstrating that as of August 19, 1997, it had total assets of \$38,326, which included cash of \$32,350, and no current or long term liabilities. This indicates that applicant has more than \$25,000 of cash available to meet its star-up expenses. This satisfies our criteria for being reasonably liquid.

Applicant's proposed operation will be directed by its president, Nick P. Martin. Martin's sales background includes seven years with TMC of Santa Barbara, a digital network reseller. He also was vice president of sales & marketing for Tech Net Work of Santa Ana, California.

We will authorize the interLATA and intraLATA services that applicant seeks to provide.

Findings of Fact

1. A notice of the filing of the application appeared in the Daily Calendar on April 14, 1997.
2. No protests have been filed.

company for interLATA and interstate calls. D.92-06-069 noted that it is possible to control, operate, or manage telephone lines without owning them. The decision also notes that resellers which do not own or directly operate their own telephone wires may still have plant which is owned, controlled, operated, and/or managed in order to facilitate communication by telephone.

3. A hearing is not required.
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, we authorized competitive intraLATA services effective January 1, 1995, for carriers meeting specified criteria.
6. Applicant has demonstrated that it has a minimum of \$25,000 of cash, reasonably liquid and readily available to meet its start-up expenses.
7. Applicant states deposits are not required by any of the underlying telecommunications carriers.
8. Applicant's technical experience consists of a president with more than seven years of sales and management experience in the telecommunications industry.
9. Applicant has submitted with its application a complete draft of applicant's initial tariff which complies with the requirements established by the Commission, including prohibitions on unreasonable deposit requirements.
10. Applicant has represented that no one associated with or employed by applicant was previously associated with an NDIEC that filed for bankruptcy or went out of business.
11. 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.
12. By D. 97-06-107, applicants for non-dominant interexchange authority are exempt from Rule 18(b).

Conclusions of Law

1. Applicant has the financial ability to provide the proposed service.
2. Applicant has made a reasonable showing of technical expertise in telecommunications and related businesses.
3. Public convenience and necessity require the interLATA and intraLATA service to be offered by applicant.
4. 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 the 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 M-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.).
5. Applicant is exempt from Rule 18(b).
 6. The application should be granted to the extent set forth below.
 7. Because of the public interest in competitive interLATA and intraLATA 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 (CPCN) is granted to Call and Save Communications, Inc. (applicant) to operate as a reseller of interLocal Access and Transport Area (interLATA) and, to the extent authorized by Decision (D.) 94-09-065, intraLocal Access and Transport Area (intraLATA) telecommunication services offered by communication common carriers in California.

2. Applicant shall file a written acceptance of the certificate granted in this proceeding.

3. a. Applicant is authorized to file with this Commission tariff schedules for the provision of interLATA and intraLATA service. Applicant may not offer interLATA and/or intraLATA 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 one day after filing. Applicant shall comply with the provisions in its tariffs.

b. Applicant is a nondominant 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 (37 CPUC2d 130, at 158), as modified by D.91-12-013 (42 CPUC2d 220, at 231) and D.92-06-034 (44 CPUC2d 617, at 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 five (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."

4. 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's Telecommunications Division. Tariff filings shall reflect all fees and surcharges to which applicant is subject, as reflected in Conclusion of Law 4. 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 as part of its initial tariff, 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 service is first rendered to the public within five days after service begins and again within five days of when intraLATA 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.
9. 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 Staff and contained in Attachment A.
10. Applicant shall ensure that its employees comply with the provisions of Public Utilities (PU) Code § 2889.5 regarding solicitation of customers.

11. 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.

12. The corporate identification number assigned to applicant is U-5893-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.

13. 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.

14. If applicant is 90 days or more late in filing an annual report or in remitting the fees listed in Conclusion of Law 4, the Telecommunications Division shall prepare for Commission consideration a resolution that revokes the applicant's CPCN, unless applicant has received the written permission of the Telecommunications Division to file or remit late.

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

16. Application 97-04-028 is closed.

This order is effective today.

Dated December 3, 1997, at San Francisco, California.

P. GREGORY CONLON
President
JESSIE J. KNIGHT, JR.
HENRY M. DUQUE
JOSIAH L. NEEPER
RICHARD A. BILAS
Commissioners

A.97-04-028 ALJ/CMW/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:
 - 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)