

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of Group Long Distance) Application No. C-1624
Inc. of Fort Lauderdale, Florida,)
seeking authority for an amendment) APPLICATION GRANTED
to its Certificate of Authority to)
provide local exchange telecommuni-)
cations services within Nebraska.) Entered: January 27, 1998

APPEARANCES:

For the Applicant:
Jon Bruning
1246 Golden Gate Drive, Ste. 1
Papillion, NE 68046

For the Nebraska Telephone
Association:
Jack Shultz
P.O. Box 82028
Lincoln, NE 68501-2028

For the Commission Staff:
John Doyle
300 The Atrium, 1200 N Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

For Arapahoe, Benkelman, Cozad,
Diller, Hemingford, Henderson,
and Wauneta Telephone
companies:
Timothy Clare
1201 Lincoln Mall, Suite 102
Lincoln, NE 68508

BY THE COMMISSION:

On September 10, 1997, Group Long Distance, Inc. (GLD) of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, filed an application with the Commission requesting authority to amend its Certificate of Authority to allow applicant to operate as a resale common carrier of local telecommunications services in Nebraska. Notice of the application was published in The Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska, on September 11, 1997. The following parties filed petitions for formal intervention: Arapahoe Telephone, Benkelman Telephone, Cambridge Telephone, Clarks Telephone, Consolidated Telephone, Consolidated Telco, Cozad Telephone, Diller Telephone, Great Plains Communications, Hemingford Cooperative Telephone, Henderson Cooperative Telephone, HunTel Systems, Nebraska Independent Telephone Association, Nebraska Telephone Association (NTA), Southeast Telephone, and Wauneta Telephone. A hearing was held January 6, 1998, in the Commission Hearing Room, Lincoln, Nebraska.

E V I D E N C E

The applicant and several intervenors entered into a stipulation that applicant would, at the present time, only seek authority to provide local exchange service in those areas serviced by US West Communications. There were no objections to the stipulation, and it was entered into evidence as Exhibit 3. Mr. Shultz orally requested that the NTA be allowed to join the stipulation. There were no objections and

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the Commission granted the NTA's request to join in the stipulation.

Applicant requested that its financial statements for the period through October 31, 1997, be admitted into evidence. There were no objections, and the documents were admitted as Exhibit 4.

Applicant produced one witness, Peter Russo, who testified as follows:

He has been the Chief Financial Officer for GLD for 13 months. They have not begun interconnection negotiations with any Nebraska company. They currently serve over 200,000 long distance customers nationally. They do not currently provide local service to any customers. They do not intend to have any facilities or employees in Nebraska. GLD is certificated as an interexchange carrier in all 50 states. It received a certificate to provide such services in Nebraska in November 1996. They are now seeking authority to provide local resale services in Nebraska, as well as in each of the 50 states. They have already received authority to do so in 22 states and have never been denied a certificate in any state. There are no formal complaints against them in any state.

The president and CEO of GLD has been in the telecommunications industry since 1989. Several other members of management staff have been in the telecommunications industry for many years. Referring to the financial statements in Exhibit 4, Mr. Russo testified that GLD has maintained profitability, and is financially able to offer local exchange services in Nebraska.

GLD intends to market its services through outside sales representatives and/or telemarketing technicians. GLD will contribute to the Universal Service Fund, provide access to the relay system for the deaf, and offer whatever services are required by regulation. GLD will not provide operator services.

Mr. Russo testified further that GLD willingly entered into the stipulation marked Exhibit 3. It will not offer local exchange services in areas that are currently served by carriers protected by the rural exemption, without first seeking further authority from the Commission. GLD's slamming policy requires that the company acquire either third party verification or written authority from the customer before switching service.

No other parties introduced testimony of evidence.

O P I N I O N A N D F I N D I N G S

In accordance with the stipulation reached by the parties and entered into evidence as Exhibit 3, the Commission limits the scope of its review in this application to whether the applicant meets the criteria necessary to provide local exchange service in Nebraska in those territories presently served by US West Communications, Inc. After examining the record, the Commission finds that Group Long Distance, Inc. has demonstrated that it meets the standards of financial, technical, and managerial competence and all other criteria necessary to provide local exchange service in those areas stipulated to. Therefore, the application to provide such service should be granted.

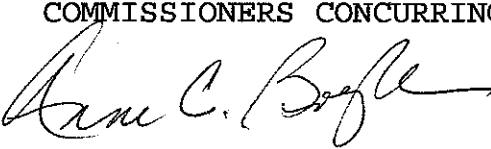

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Group Long Distance, Inc. be, and it is hereby, granted a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to provide local exchange service within Nebraska in those territories presently served by US West Communications, Inc.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 27th day of January, 1998.

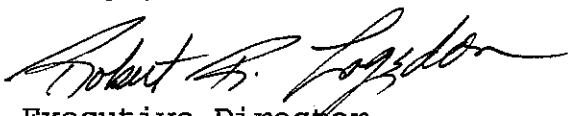
NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

 
Chairman

//s//Lowell C. Johnson
//s//Daniel G. Urwiller

ATTEST:


Executive Director