

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the	)	Application No. C-4928
Application of Hamilton Long	)	
Distance Company of Aurora,	)	
Nebraska, seeking authority to	)	GRANTED
provide competitive local	)	
exchange services within the	)	
State of Nebraska.	)	Entered: June 22, 2017

BY THE COMMISSION:

On May 16, 2017, Hamilton Long Distance Company (Applicant or Hamilton) of Aurora, Nebraska, filed an application seeking authority to provide competitive local exchange services in the State of Nebraska. Notice of the Application was published in The Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska, on May 19, 2017. No protests were filed; therefore, this application is processed pursuant to the Commission's Rule of Modified Procedure.

Applicant is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska, with its headquarters in Aurora, Nebraska. Applicant has been authorized by the Secretary of State to operate in Nebraska. Applicant has been engaged in the provision of telecommunications service in Nebraska since 1994 and holds a certificate for interexchange service in Nebraska. Neither the Applicant nor the Applicant's incumbent local exchange carrier affiliate has been involved in a formal complaint or other investigatory proceeding within the last two years.

Applicant does not currently provide service in any other state and does not have facilities in any other state. No application filed by the Applicant has been denied in any other state.

Applicant proposes to operate a full array of local exchange services. Applicant plans to provide services through a combination of its own facilities and resold services, and seeks to provide local exchange and exchange access service in service areas of carriers operating as Price Cap Carriers in the State of Nebraska. Applicant initially intends to offer telecommunications services only in geographic areas service by Century Link QC and Windstream Nebraska, Inc., upon completion of interconnection and

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operational agreements negotiated in accordance with the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

The Applicant does not propose to require advance payments or deposits from its customers. The Applicant may require deposits from a future customer with an unacceptable payment history or unfavorable credit record.

Applicant states it possesses the requisite financial, technical, and managerial expertise to provide the proposed services. Applicant provided its financial statements under seal as Exhibit No. 5. Applicant intends to draw on the management resources of its affiliates and certain consultants for planning, marketing, network service development, provisioning and delivery, and legal and regulatory assistance.

Applicant states a grant of the application is in the public interest because the public will benefit from greater consumer choice created through the broadening of telecommunications service alternatives and affordable rates maintained by competition. Further, Applicant states its provision of competitive local exchange service will preserve and advance universal service, protect the public safety and welfare, ensure the continuous quality of telecommunications services, and safeguard the rights of consumers.

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

The Commission considers this application for authority in light of the following criteria and standards established in the Commission's telecommunications rules:

- (a) Whether the Applicant has provided the information required by the Commission;
- (b) Whether the Applicant has provided a performance bond, if required;
- (c) Whether the Applicant possesses adequate financial resources to provide the proposed service;
- (d) Whether the Applicant possesses adequate technical competence and resources to provide the proposed service;

- (e) Whether the Applicant possesses adequate managerial competence to provide the proposed service; and
- (f) Whether granting the Applicant a certificate preserves and advances universal service, protects the public safety and welfare, ensures the continued quality of telecommunications services and safeguards the rights of consumers, pursuant to Section 253(b) of the Act.

Applicant has demonstrated that it meets the standards of financial, technical, and managerial competence and all other criteria necessary to provide local exchange services in the State of Nebraska.

These opinions and findings carry no precedential value other than establishing minimum standards and criteria to apply when considering applications to provide local exchange services. All telecommunications carriers seeking such a certificate must demonstrate that they meet, at a minimum, the standards and criteria set forth herein.

Before the Applicant is allowed to provide local exchange service to its users, it must either:

1. Through negotiation or arbitration, reach an interconnection/resale agreement with the pertinent incumbent local exchange carrier and receive Commission approval of the interconnection/resale agreement; or
2. In the event a certified local exchange carrier provides a wholesale tariff, purchase rates from that tariff, file its own tariff and receive Commission approval of its tariff.

This order does not terminate, waive or in any manner diminish the exemptions and protections created by the Act for rural carriers, as defined by the Act. This order does not address the issue of the rural local exchange carrier exemption under the Act. Rural exemptions may be terminated, suspended or modified only as provided in Section 251(f) of the Act.

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Prior to providing service in any area in the State of Nebraska, Applicant must file tariffs in accordance with the provisions of Section 002.21 of the Neb. Admin. R. & Regs. Title 291, Ch. 5. Applicant has attached its proposed tariff to the application as Exhibit 4.

Upon the offering of local exchange services in the State of Nebraska, Applicant would be subject to the same laws, rules and regulations, both federal and state (including any laws, rules or regulations regarding universal service, restrictions on joint marketing and quality of service), applicable to any other local exchange company except those obligations imposed on ILECs pursuant to Section 251(c) of the Act.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Application No. C-4928 be, and hereby is, granted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Applicant is obligated to abide by the same laws, rules and regulations, both federal and state (including any laws, rules or regulations regarding universal service, restrictions on joint marketing and quality of service), applicable to any other local exchange carriers, except obligations imposed on incumbent local exchange carriers pursuant to Section 251(c) of the Act.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, to the extent Applicant provides access line service as referenced in the Telecommunications Relay System Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-301 through 86-315(Relay Act) and defined in Neb. Admin. R. & Reg. Title 291, Ch. 5 § 001.01B, the Applicant shall collect from its subscribers a surcharge (Relay Surcharge) pursuant to the relay act and the Commission's annual orders establishing the amount of the surcharge, and shall remit to the Commission the proceeds from the relay surcharge as provided by the Relay Act.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Applicant comply with all necessary statutes and Commission Rules and Regulations as they pertain to the Nebraska Universal Service Fund.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Applicant shall file, in accordance with the applicable statutes, on or before April

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30 of each year, an annual report with the Commission consisting of: (a) a copy of any report filed with the Federal Communications Commission; (b) a copy of any annual report to stockholders; and (c) a copy of the latest Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. If such reports are unavailable, Applicant shall file a balance sheet and income statement for the previous year of operation, and for the State of Nebraska on a combined interstate-intrastate basis, the investment in the telephone plant and equipment located within the state, accumulated depreciation thereon, operating revenues, operating expenses and taxes.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that within 30 days from the entry of this Order that the Applicant file a tariff and pay appropriate filing fees with the Commission as required by state statutes and the Commission's regulations.

IT IS FINALLY ORDERED that this Order be, and hereby is, made the Commission's official Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to the Applicant to provide competitive local exchange service in the State of Nebraska.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 22nd day of June, 2017.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

*Maury Kadden*

*Pat [unclear]*

//s//Frank E. Landis  
//s//Tim Schram

*Tim Schram*

Chairman

ATTEST:

*Shana K. [unclear]*

Deputy Director