

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 20U-0273T

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR THE DECLARATION OF TELEPORT COMMUNICATIONS AMERICA, LLC OF INTENT TO SERVE WITHIN TERRITORY OF RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROVIDERS.

DECISION GRANTING PETITION

Mailed Date: August 5, 2020
Adopted Date: July 29, 2020

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement

1. On June 23, 2020, Teleport Communications America, LLC (TCA or Company), filed a petition stating its Declaration of Intent to Serve Within the Territory of a Rural Telecommunications Provider (Petition) pursuant to Rules 2003(a)(III) and 2107 of the Rules Regulating Telecommunications Services and Providers of Telecommunications Services, 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* (CCR) 723-2.

2. TCA intends to provide interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP). TCA will need local trunks to interconnect with the local exchange provider TDM Network. TCA will not be providing TDM service to retail customers.

3. The services to be provided are in the serving territory of El Paso County Telephone Company, doing business as CenturyLink. TCA intends to provide these services in the El Paso and Rush exchanges.

4. On June 23, 2020, a notice of the application was provided to all persons, firms, or corporations, interested in or affected by the grant or denial of the requested relief.

Interventions were due on or before July 24, 2020. TCA has represented in its Petition that it has directly notified El Paso County Telephone Company, the rural incumbent affected, by first class mail, of their Declaration of Intent to Serve. This is a requirement of Rule 2107.

5. No petition to intervene or notice of intervention has been filed, and thus the Petition is uncontested. Accordingly, the Petition will be determined without a formal hearing in accordance with § 40-6-109(5), C.R.S., and Rule 1403 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure, 4 CCR 7231.

B. Discussion

6. The service territory of El Paso County Telephone Company is currently subject to competition. The Commission previously granted several petitions and/or declarations of intent to provide local exchange telecommunications services. *See* Proceeding No. 06T-373 (T-Mobile USA), Proceeding No. 06T-203 (Verizon Wireless); Proceeding No. 06T-195 (Sprint Nextel Corp); and Proceeding No. 06T-194 (Cingular Wireless LLC).

7. In 2014, the General Assembly passed telecom deregulation legislation that reclassified many services into Part 4 of Title 40, Article, 15. *See* § 40-15-401, C.R.S. Subject to certain exceptions, including those for basic service as provided in § 40-15-401(1)(b), C.R.S., products, services, and providers listed in § 40-15-401, C.R.S. (Part 4), “are exempt from regulation under this article or under the ‘Public Utilities Law’ of the state of Colorado.” § 40-15-401(1), C.R.S. Section 402 also emphasizes the deregulatory status of services listed in section 401, by stating: “Nothing in articles 1 to 7 of this title [40] or parts 2 and 3 of this article [15] shall apply to deregulated services and products pursuant to this part 4.” § 40-15-402(1), C.R.S.

8. We acknowledge that TCA's services are no longer regulated under Part 2 of § 40-15-201, C.R.S., but TCA is requesting approval of its intent to serve pursuant to the new Rule 2107 adopted September 1, 2017. The Commission, by this Decision, is not asserting jurisdiction over TCA's services.

9. The Commission updated its existing telecommunications rules to be consistent with the 2014 Telecommunications Reform Legislation. *See Proceeding No. 16R-0453T*. The 2014 Telecommunications Reform Legislation made changes that no longer require Commission authorization (a certificate of public convenience and necessity) to offer deregulated local exchange service.

10. The federal telephone Numbering Administrator that assigns the thousand block pooling of numbers to providers, requires that the Company provide state commission approval as part of its required documentation to obtain telephone numbers to offer competitive services in rural areas. TCA requires the NPA-NXX-x blocks in each of the rate centers listed above in order to provide its standard VoIP product offerings. The Commission will consider TCA's Petition but affirms that it does not assert any jurisdiction over deregulated services of local exchange services. The Company intends to provide these services in the El Paso and Rush exchanges.

11. We find that granting TCA's Petition is consistent with the legislative policy statements contained in §§ 40-15-101, 40-15-501, and 40-15-502, C.R.S., the Telecommunications Act of 1996, 47 U.S.C. § 251, and with the public interest in TCA to provide competitive services in the requested rural exchanges.

II. ORDER**A. The Commission Orders That:**

1. The Petition filed by Teleport Communications America, LLC (TCA) on June 23, 2020 stating its Declaration of Intent to Serve Within the Territory of a Rural Telecommunications Provider and Petition to serve in the El Paso and Rush exchanges is granted. Notwithstanding the granting of the Petition, the Commission is not exerting jurisdiction over TCA's services.

2. The 20-day time period provided by § 40-6-114, C.R.S., to file an application for rehearing, reargument, or reconsideration shall begin on the first day after the effective date of this Decision.

3. This Decision is effective on its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
July 29, 2020.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Doug Dean,
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

JEFFREY P. ACKERMANN

JOHN GAVAN

MEGAN M. GILMAN

Commissioners