

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF OREGON**

CP 1366

|   |   |       |
|---|---|-------|
| In the Matter of                                      | ) |       |
|   | ) |       |
| NECC TELECOM INC.                                     | ) | ORDER |
|   | ) |       |
| Application for a Certificate of Authority to Provide | ) |       |
| Telecommunications Service in Oregon and              | ) |       |
| Classification as a Competitive Provider.             | ) |       |

DISPOSITION: APPLICATION GRANTED

**Note:** By issuing this certificate, the Commission makes no endorsement or certification regarding the certificate holder's rates or service.

**INTRODUCTION**

NECC Telecom Inc. (Applicant) filed the application on May 2, 2007. Applicant requests authority to provide interexchange telecommunications service in Oregon as a competitive provider.

The Commission served notice of the application on May 2, 2007. The Commission did not receive any protests.

Based on the record in this matter, the Commission makes the following:

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

**The Proposed Operation**

Applicant will provide intrastate, interexchange, switched telecommunications service (toll) and non-switched, private line service (i.e., dedicated transmission service) statewide in Oregon. Applicant indicates that it intends to resell the services of other certified carriers. Applicant did not indicate that it would operate as a facilities based provider.

Applicant will not directly provide operator services as defined in OAR 860-032-0001. Applicant will not be an 'operator service provider' as defined in ORS 759.690(1)(d).

Applicant previously held a certificate of authority to provide telecommunications service in Oregon. *See* Order No. 02-697, Docket CP 1097. That certificate was canceled for failure to file OUS reports. *See* Order No. 04-251. NECC did not request to have the cancellation order rescinded and the deadline for doing so has long passed. However, the company continued to operate in Oregon without a valid certificate and without Commission knowledge. The Commission became aware that the company was operating when customer complaints began to be filed with the Consumer Services Division of the Public Utility Commission.

Staff attempted to contact the company only to find that the contact information on file was not valid or current. Staff did succeed in contacting the company's consultant who attempted to have the company respond to inquiries. Several inquiries were ignored before the company finally responded and brought all records and payments up-to-date and filed the application before us now.

The company is now current in all areas. It is vital that the company comply with future reports and payments in a timely manner. Failing to do so will result in the cancellation of the company's authority to provide telecommunications service in Oregon.

### **Applicable Law**

ORS 759.020 governs Applicant's request to provide telecommunications as a competitive provider. Under ORS 759.020(5), the Commission shall classify Applicant as a competitive provider if Applicant demonstrates that its services are subject to competition, or that its customers or those proposed to become customers have reasonably available alternatives. In making this determination, the Commission must consider the extent to which services are available from alternative providers that are functionally equivalent or substitutable at comparable rates, terms and conditions, existing economic or regulatory barriers to entry, and any other factors deemed relevant.

OAR 860-032-0015 authorizes the Commission to suspend or cancel the certificate if the Commission finds that (a) the holder made misrepresentations when it filed the application, or (b) the certificate holder fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the certificate.

### **Resolution**

**Existence of Alternatives.** AT&T, MCI, Sprint Communications Company, Qwest Corporation, Verizon Northwest Inc. and others provide toll and operator services in the service area requested by Applicant.

**Suitability of Alternatives.** Applicant's customers or those proposed to become customers have reasonably suitable alternatives to Applicant's services.

Subscribers to Applicant's services can buy comparable services at comparable rates from other vendors.

**Barriers to Entry.** The level of competition in the market shows that both economic and regulatory barriers to entry are relatively low.

**Conditions of the Certificate**

There are several conditions listed in the application. Oregon Administrative Rules relating to certificates of authority are generally included in OAR chapter 860, division 032. Conditions applicable to certificate holders include, but are not limited to, the following: OARs 860-032-0007, 860-032-0008, 860-032-0011, 860-032-0012, 860-032-0013, 860-032-0015, 860-032-0020, 860-032-0060, and 860-032-0090. The conditions listed in the application and those contained in Oregon Administrative Rules are adopted and made conditions of this certificate of authority. A condition of this certificate of authority is that Applicant shall comply with applicable laws, Commission rules, and Commission orders related to provision of telecommunications service in Oregon. Further, Applicant shall comply with the following conditions:

1. Applicant shall not take any action that impairs the ability of other certified telecommunications service providers to meet service standards specified by the Commission.
2. Applicant shall comply with all conditions listed in the application.
3. Applicant shall pay an annual fee to the Commission pursuant to ORS 756.310 and 756.320 and OAR 860-032-0095. The minimum annual fee is \$100. Applicant is required to pay the fee for the preceding calendar year by April 1.
4. Applicant shall make quarterly contributions to the Oregon Universal Service fund based on a Commission approved schedule and surcharge percentage assessed on all retail intrastate telecommunications services sold in Oregon, pursuant to ORS 759.425. If Applicant bills the surcharge to its end-users, Applicant shall show the charges as a separate line item on the bill with the words "Oregon Universal Service Surcharge \_\_\_\_%".
5. If Applicant provides services to a subscriber who, in turn, resells the services, including operator services, then Applicant and the subscriber must comply with ORS 759.690 and OAR 860-032-0007.

**Conclusions**

Applicant has met the requirements for a certificate to provide telecommunications service as a competitive provider. The application should be granted.

**ORDER**

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The application of NECC Telecom Inc. for authority to provide interexchange switched (toll) and dedicated transmission telecommunications service is granted.
2. Applicant is designated as a competitive telecommunications provider.
3. Applicant may provide authorized services statewide in Oregon.
4. Applicant shall comply with conditions of the certificate.

Made, entered, and effective     AUG 08 2007    .



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee Sparling".

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**Lee Sparling**  
Director  
Utility Program

A party may request rehearing or reconsideration of this order pursuant to ORS 756.561. A request for rehearing or reconsideration must be filed with the Commission within 60 days of the date of service of this order. The request must comply with the requirements in OAR 860-014-0095. A copy of any such request must also be served on each party to the proceeding as provided by OAR 860-013-0070(2). A party may appeal this order by filing a petition for review with the Court of Appeals in compliance with ORS 183.480-183.484.