



Agenda Date: 4/23/14
Agenda Item: IB

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350
www.nj.gov/bpu/

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

IN THE MATTER OF THE VERIFIED PETITION OF)
WIDE VOICE, LLC FOR AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE)
COMPETITIVE FACILITIES-BASED LOCAL)
EXCHANGE, INTEREXCHANGE AND EXCHANGE)
ACCESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES)
THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY)

ORDER

DOCKET NO. TE14020160

Parties of Record:

James H. Laskey, Esq., Norris, McLaughlin & Marcus, Bridgewater, New Jersey, for Petitioner
Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

BY THE BOARD:

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-1 et seq. and Section 253 of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, 47 U.S.C. § 151 et seq., and by letter dated February 14, 2014, Wide Voice, LLC ("Petitioner" or "Wide Voice") filed a verified Petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") requesting authority to provide all forms of facilities-based competitive local exchange, interexchange and exchange access telecommunications services throughout the State of New Jersey. Petitioner has submitted its financial information under seal and has filed a sworn affidavit with substantiation for confidential treatment in accordance with the Board's rules for determining confidentiality, N.J.A.C. 14:1-12 et seq. and in compliance with the Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.

Wide Voice is a limited liability company organized under the laws of the State of Nevada and its principal offices are located at 410 South Rampart, Suite 390, Las Vegas, Nevada 89145.

Petitioner has submitted copies of its Articles of Organization and Certificate of Existence with status in Good Standing from the State of Nevada and its New Jersey Certificate of Registration to operate as a Limited Liability Company. Petitioner is currently authorized to provide local exchange and interexchange telecommunications services in California, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Montana, North Dakota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas and Washington.

Petitioner states that it has not been denied authority to provide telecommunications services, its authority has not been revoked in any jurisdiction, and it has not been the subject of any civil

or criminal proceedings. Petitioner intends to enter into an interconnection agreement with Verizon New Jersey Inc. ("VNJ") upon approval of its petition.

Petitioner seeks authority to provide all forms of facilities-based competitive local exchange and exchange access telecommunications services to business customers in the exchanges served by VNJ and statewide authority to provide facilities-based interexchange telecommunications services in the State of New Jersey. Petitioner proposes to offer competitive telecommunications services including exchange access, using its own facilities and facilities of other facilities-based carriers. Petitioner will provide service to Voice over Internet Protocol enabled business customers and Telephony Applications providers on a retail, wholesale, carrier level, which will include public switched telephone network connectivity and intermediate carrier functions. Petitioner will primarily utilize leased transport services from the incumbent local exchange carriers, other competitive local exchange carriers and competitive access providers. Petitioner may also use private, point to point microwave radio transport in select opportunities and markets. Petitioner's network consists of Trunking and Signalling Gateways provided by GenBand with Call Routing, Call Management, Call Feature Services and Border Control by the Petitioner's network. Petitioner maintains a toll-free number for customer service inquiries. Petitioner will file an initial tariff with the Board.

Petitioner requests a waiver of N.J.S.A. 48:3-7.8 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-4.3, which require that books and records be kept within the State of New Jersey and be maintained in accordance with the Uniform System of Accounts ("USOA"), respectively. Petitioner, instead, requests permission to maintain its books and records in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and to keep all books, records, documents and other writings incident to the conduct of Petitioner's business in the State of New Jersey at Petitioner's corporate offices located in Las Vegas, Nevada.

By letter dated March 11, 2014, the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel submitted comments with the Board stating that, based on its review, "Rate Counsel is satisfied that the Verified Petition meets the regulatory requirements and is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity." Id. at 2. Accordingly, Rate Counsel does not oppose a grant of authority or approval of Petitioner's request to provide telecommunications services in New Jersey. Id. at 4. In addition, Rate Counsel does not object to a grant of the waivers requested by Petitioner, nor does Rate Counsel oppose Petitioner's request to treat Petitioner's financial information as confidential and placed under seal. Id. at 3.

DISCUSSION

On February 8, 1996, the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, P.L. 104-104, 110 Stat. 56, codified in scattered sections of 47 U.S.C. § 151 et seq., was signed into law, removing barriers to competition by providing that "[n]o State or local statute or regulation, or other State or local legal requirement, may prohibit or have the effect of prohibiting the ability of any entity to provide any interstate or intrastate telecommunications service." 47 U.S.C. § 253(a).

Any grant of authority is subject to the right of the Board as the state regulatory authority to impose requirements necessary to protect the public safety and welfare, ensure the continued quality of telecommunications services, and safeguard the rights of consumers. 47 U.S.C. § 253(c).

In considering this Petition, the Board recognizes its obligation not to prohibit entry into intrastate telecommunications markets of qualified applicants. 47 U.S.C. § 253(a). The Board

also considers the New Jersey State Legislature's declaration that it is the policy of the State to provide diversity in the supply of telecommunications services and the Legislature's findings that "competition will promote efficiency, reduce regulatory delay, and foster productivity and innovation" and "produce a wider selection of services at competitive market-based prices." N.J.S.A. 48:2-21.16(a)(4); N.J.S.A. 48:2-21.16(b)(1) and (3).

Therefore, having reviewed Wide Voice's Petition and the information supplied in support thereof, the Board **FINDS** that the Petitioner is in compliance with the Board's filing requirements to provide telecommunications services in New Jersey. Accordingly, the Board **HEREBY AUTHORIZES** the Petitioner to provide local exchange, interexchange and exchange access telecommunications services throughout the State of New Jersey. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:3-1.3(a), the Board notes that the Petitioner will not be permitted to provide telecommunications services until a tariff is filed with the Board. Additionally, Petitioner is not relieved from its responsibility to file an Annual Report and a Statement of Gross Intrastate Revenues from Operations form for the preceding calendar year.

Furthermore, the Board **FINDS** that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 48:2-59 and 48:2-60 and N.J.S.A. 52:27EE-52, the Petitioner is subject to an annual assessment by both the Board and the Division of Rate Counsel, respectively.

The Board **HEREBY ORDERS**:

- 1) Petitioner shall file its tariff with the Board.
- 2) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-16(2)(b) and N.J.A.C. 14:3-6.3, Petitioner shall file an annual report as of December 31 of each year, which is due on or before March 31 of the following year. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-16.3, if Petitioner fails to file an annual report by the due date, Petitioner shall be subject to a penalty of \$5.00 for each day thereafter until such report is filed.
- 3) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-62, Petitioner shall file a statement of gross intrastate revenues from operations form (AR3-1) as of December 31 of each year, which is due on or before June 1 of the following year.

On or before February 1 of each year, the Petitioner will receive from the Division of Audits an annual report package and a Statement of Gross Intrastate Revenues from Operations form for the preceding calendar year. The purpose of these documents is to report the Petitioner's financial information and gross intrastate revenues from operations as of December 31 of each year. The annual report and a statement of gross intrastate revenues from operations form are due on or before March 31 and June 1 of the following year, respectively. If Petitioner does not receive these documents, it is Petitioner's responsibility to obtain them from the Board. It is also the Petitioner's responsibility to ensure timely filing of these reports.

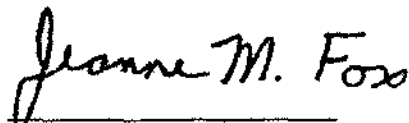
Regarding the Petitioner's request for waivers of the Board rules, the Board **FINDS** that the Petitioner has demonstrated good cause why the Board should grant relief from its requirements that the Petitioner maintain its books and records in accordance with USOA and within New Jersey. Therefore, subject to the Petitioner's continuing responsibility to provide the Board books and records upon 48 hours' notice, and in the manner requested, and to pay to the Board all expenses or charges incurred by the Board for any investigation or examination of these books and records, the Board **APPROVES** the Petitioner's request for the exemptions from maintaining its books and records in accordance with USOA and in New Jersey.

This Order shall be effective April 30, 2014.

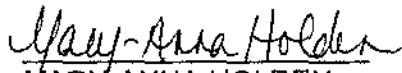
DATED: 4/24/14

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:


DIANNE SOLOMON
PRESIDENT


JEANNE M. FOX
COMMISSIONER

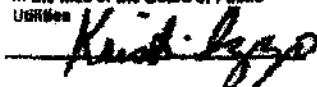

JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO
COMMISSIONER


MARY-ANNA HOLDEN
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:


KRISTI IZZO
SECRETARY

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within
document is a true copy of the original
in the files of the Board of Public
Utilities



IN THE MATTER OF THE VERIFIED PETITION OF WIDE VOICE, LLC FOR AUTHORITY TO
PROVIDE COMPETITIVE FACILITIES-BASED LOCAL EXCHANGE, INTEREXCHANGE
AND EXCHANGE ACCESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES
THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DOCKET NO. TE14020160

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