



Agenda Date: 9/17/18
Agenda Item: IVB

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 3rd Floor, Suite 314
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350
www.nj.gov/bpu/

OFFICE OF CABLE TELEVISION
AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT PETITION OF UNITED)
TELEPHONE COMPANY OF NEW JERSEY, INC., D/B/A)
CENTURYLINK AND BCN TELECOM, INC. FOR)
APPROVAL OF AN INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT)
)
) DOCKET NO. TO17030327

Parties of Record:

Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel
Zsuzsanna E. Benedek, Esq., United Telephone Company of New Jersey, Inc. d/b/a Centurylink
Julian Jacquez, Chief Operating Officer, BCN Telecom, Inc.

BY THE BOARD:

By letter dated March 30, 2017, United Telephone Company of New Jersey, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink ("CenturyLink"), a New Jersey corporation and BCN Telecom, Inc., ("BCN Telecom"), (jointly, "the Parties"), pursuant to Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, P.L. 104-104, 110 Stat. 56 (codified in scattered sections of 47 U.S.C. §151 et seq.) ("Act"), submitted to the Board of Public Utilities ("Board") a joint application ("Application") for approval of a negotiated interconnection agreement, entitled "Interconnection Agreement By and Between United Telephone Company of New Jersey, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink and BCN Telecom for the State of New Jersey" ("Agreement"). CenturyLink is an incumbent local exchange carrier ("ILEC") as defined by the Act with the duty to negotiate interconnection agreements pursuant to Section 252 of the Act. See 47 U.S.C. §251(c) and §251(h)(1). The Agreement sets forth the rates, terms and conditions under which the Parties will interconnect their facilities and exchange traffic with each other for the provision of local exchange telecommunications service.

CenturyLink and BCN Telecom assert that the Agreement satisfies the requirements for Board approval because it does not discriminate against any other telecommunications carrier, as required by Section 252(e)(2)(A)(i). The Parties also assert that the Agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity, as required by Section 252(e)(2)(A)(ii). The Agreement shall become effective on the date of Commission approval and continue for a period of 3 years after execution by both Parties. The Agreement provides for post-termination interim services arrangements.

By letter dated August 14, 2018, the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel ("Rate Counsel" "RC") submitted comments to the Board stating that it does not object to Board approval of the Agreement subject to conditions.

RC requests that the Board reject the terms contained in Article III, paragraph 41, titled "Security Deposit" as the provisions allow for the reservation of rights on the part of CenturyLink to secure a deposit at any time under the circumstances described therein which may discriminate against nonparty telecommunications providers and be inconsistent with the public interest.

DISCUSSION

Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §252(a)(1), an ILEC may negotiate and enter into a binding interconnection agreement with a carrier requesting interconnection, service, or network elements without regard to the standards set forth in 47 U.S.C. §251(b) and (c). In addition, 47 U.S.C. §252(e)(1) requires approval by the Board of any interconnection agreement adopted by negotiation or arbitration, and further requires the Board to approve or reject the agreement, with written findings as to any deficiencies. The Act provides that the Board may reject a negotiated agreement only if it finds that: "(i) the agreement (or portion thereof) discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement; or (ii) the implementation of such agreement or portion is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity....." 47 U.S.C. §252(e)(2)(A).

The Board finds that Rate Counsel's request that the Board reject certain provisions of the Agreement are without merit, and accordingly, the Board declines to make modifications to the Agreement. The Board notes that the Agreement has been independently and voluntarily negotiated between two business entities, and is "an integrated package that reflects a negotiated balance of many interests and concerns critical to both parties." (Application at 2).

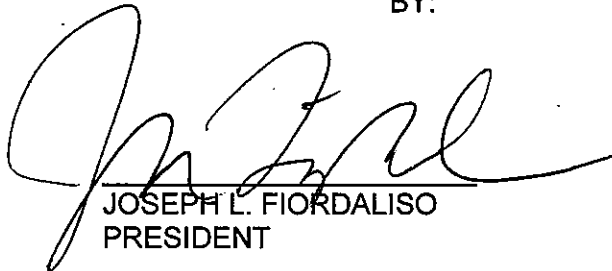
The Board's review of the Agreement and the record in this matter indicate that the Agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity and does not discriminate against telecommunications carriers not parties to the Agreement. Therefore, the Board **FINDS** that the Agreement meets the standards set forth in the Act, and **HEREBY APPROVES** the Agreement as presented by the Parties. This approval should not be construed as preapproval of any future petitions for rate recovery of costs incurred pursuant to the Agreement. In addition, approval does not constitute a determination concerning, nor shall the Board be bound by, any provisions within the Agreement regarding the confidentiality of information.

The Board notes that amendments or modifications to Board-approved interconnection agreements are subject to Board review and approval. No agreement shall be read, nor does the Board believe the Parties to the Agreement intend that it be read, to limit the authority of the Board under Section 252(e) of the Act to review interconnection agreements. Accordingly, until and unless otherwise provided by the Board, subsequent amendments or modifications to the Agreement approved herein shall be subject to review and approval by the Board. Additionally, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §252(h), a copy of the Agreement will be made available for public inspection and copying within ten days of the issuance of this Order.


This Order shall be effective on September 27, 2018.

DATED: 9/17/18

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:


JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO
PRESIDENT

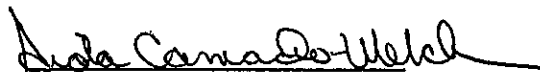

MARY-ANNA HOLDEN
COMMISSIONER


DIANNE SOLOMON
COMMISSIONER


UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA
COMMISSIONER


ROBERT M. GORDON
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:


AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH
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 JOINT APPLICATION OF UNITED TELEPHONE COMPANY OF
NEW JERSEY, INC., D/B/A CENTURYLINK, AND BCN TELECOM, INC. FOR APPROVAL OF
AN INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT

DOCKET NO. TO17030327

SERVICE LIST

Zsuzsanna E. Benedek, Esq.
United Telephone Company of New
Jersey, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink
240 North Third Street, Suite 300
Harrisburg, PA 17101
Sue.benedek@centurylink.com

Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director
Division of Rate Counsel
140 Front Street, 4th Floor
Post Office Box 003
Trenton, NJ 08625-0003
sbrand@rpa.state.nj.us

Maria Novas-Ruiz, Esq.
Division of Rate Counsel
140 Front Street, 4th Floor
Post Office Box 003
Trenton, NJ 08625-0003
mnovas@rpa.state.nj.us

Geoffrey R. Gersten
Deputy Attorney General
Attorney General's Office
Department of Law & Public Safety
Division of Law
124 Halsey Street
Post Office Box 45029
Newark, NJ 07101-45029
Geoffrey.gersten@law.nioag.gov

Julian Jacquez, Chief Operating Officer
BCN Telecom, Inc.
1200 Mt Kemble Ave., 3rd Floor
Morristown, NJ 07960
jjacquez@bcntele.com

Lawanda R. Gilbert, Director
Office of Cable Television and
Telecommunications
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 3rd Floor, Suite 314
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350
Lawanda.gilbert@bpu.nj.gov

Harold Bond
Office of Cable Television and
Telecommunications
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 3rd Floor, Suite 314
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350
Harold.Bond@bpu.nj.gov

Rocco Della Serra
Office of Cable Television and
Telecommunications
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 3rd Floor, Suite 314
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350
Rocco.Della-Serra@bpu.nj.gov

Jimarli Figueiredo
Office of Cable Television and
Telecommunications
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 3rd Floor, Suite 314
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350
Jimarli.figueiredo@bpu.nj.gov

Carol Artale, Esq.
Deputy Chief Counsel
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 3rd Floor, Suite 314
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350
Carol.artale@bpu.nj.gov