



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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Washington, D.C. 20554

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COMMENTS INVITED ON APPLICATION OF TELECONNECT LONG DISTANCE SERVICES & SYSTEMS COMPANY TO DISCONTINUE DOMESTIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

WC Docket No. 14-154
Comp. Pol. File No. 1174

Comments Due: September 30, 2014

Section 214 Application

Applicant: Teleconnect Long Distance Services & Systems Company

On **August 11, 2014**, **Teleconnect Long Distance Services & Systems Company** (Teleconnect or Applicant), located at **One Verizon Way, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920**, filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) requesting authority, under section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. § 214, and section 63.71 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 63.71, to discontinue a certain domestic telecommunications service in California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Texas and Washington (Affected Areas).

Teleconnect indicates that it is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Telecom*USA, and that it currently offers standalone postpaid calling card service (Affected Service) to residential and small business customers in the Affected Areas under the brand name Telecom*USA. Teleconnect explains that the Affected Service allows customers to place long-distance and international calls by dialing a toll-free access code or number that Teleconnect provides. Teleconnect adds that its standalone postpaid calling card service is not associated with a presubscription service. According to Teleconnect, customers can use its cards from anywhere in the United States to place long-distance and international calls, and customers will then be billed for calls made using the card. Teleconnect indicates, however, that due to overall declines in calling card usage, it plans to discontinue its standalone postpaid calling card service in the Affected Areas on or after October 15, 2014, subject to Commission authorization.¹ Teleconnect maintains that the public convenience and necessity will not be impaired by the proposed discontinuance because the service is declining in the marketplace as mobile phones have, in most cases, obviated the need for calling card services. In addition, Teleconnect submits that there are other alternatives to such calling card services in the marketplace including pre-paid calling cards and alternate billing services. Teleconnect asserts that it sent notice of the proposed discontinuance to affected customers by U.S. Mail on or before August 1, 2014. Teleconnect also represents that it is considered non-dominant with respect to the service to be discontinued and that it "has always provided postpaid calling card service on a non-

¹ Discontinuance of international service is governed by section 63.19 of the Commission's rules. See 47 C.F.R. § 63.19.

dominant basis and has not tariffed the [service] at least since the Commission adopted its de-tariffing rules more than ten years ago.”

In accordance with section 63.71(c) of the Commission’s rules, Teleconnect’s application will be deemed to be granted automatically on the 31st day after the release date of this public notice, unless the Commission notifies Teleconnect that the grant will not be automatically effective. In its application and notice to customers, Teleconnect indicates that it plans to discontinue the Affected Service in the Affected Areas on or after October 15, 2014 and subject to Commission authorization. Accordingly, pursuant to section 63.71(c) and the terms of Teleconnect’s application and notice to customers, absent further Commission action, Teleconnect may discontinue its standalone postpaid calling card service in the Affected Areas on or after **October 16, 2014**, in accordance with Teleconnect’s filed representations. The Commission normally will authorize proposed discontinuances of service unless it is shown that customers or other end users would be unable to receive service or a reasonable substitute from another carrier, or that the public convenience and necessity would be otherwise adversely affected.

Comments objecting to this application must be filed with the Commission on or before **September 30, 2014**. Such comments should refer to **WC Docket No. 14-154 and Comp. Pol. File No. 1174**. Comments should include specific information about the impact of this proposed discontinuance on the commenter, including any inability to acquire reasonable substitute service. Comments may be filed using the Commission’s Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) or by filing paper copies. *See Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings*, 63 FR 24121 (1998). Comments may be filed electronically using the Internet by accessing the ECFS: <http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/ecfs2/>. Filers should follow the instructions provided on the Web site for submitting comments. Generally, only one copy of an electronic submission must be filed. In completing the transmittal screen, filers should include their full name, U.S. Postal Service mailing address, and the applicable docket or rulemaking number.

Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and one copy of each filing. Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail. All filings must be addressed to the Commission’s Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission. All hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission’s Secretary must be delivered to FCC Headquarters at 445 12th Street, S.W., Room TW-A325, Washington, D.C. 20554. The filing hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes and boxes must be disposed of before entering the building. Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail and Priority Mail) must be sent to 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20743. U.S. Postal Service first-class, Express, and Priority mail must be addressed to 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.

Two copies of the comments should also be sent to the Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, S.W., Room 5-C140, Washington, D.C. 20554, Attention: Carmell Weathers. In addition, comments should be served upon the Applicant. Commenters are also requested to fax their comments to the FCC at (202) 418-1413, Attention: Carmell Weathers.

This proceeding is considered a “permit but disclose” proceeding for purposes of the Commission’s *ex parte* rules.² Persons making *ex parte* presentations must file a copy of any written presentation or a memorandum summarizing any oral presentation within two business days after the presentation (unless a different deadline applicable to the Sunshine period applies). Persons making oral

² 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.1200 *et seq.*

ex parte presentations are reminded that memoranda summarizing the presentation must (1) list all persons attending or otherwise participating in the meeting at which the *ex parte* presentation was made, and (2) summarize all data presented and arguments made during the presentation. If the presentation consisted in whole or in part of the presentation of data or arguments already reflected in the presenter's written comments, memoranda or other filings in the proceeding, the presenter may provide citations to such data or arguments in his or her prior comments, memoranda, or other filings (specifying the relevant page and/or paragraph numbers where such data or arguments can be found) in lieu of summarizing them in the memorandum. Documents shown or given to Commission staff during *ex parte* meetings are deemed to be written *ex parte* presentations and must be filed consistent with rule 1.1206(b). In proceedings governed by rule 1.49(f) or for which the Commission has made available a method of electronic filing, written *ex parte* presentations and memoranda summarizing oral *ex parte* presentations, and all attachments thereto, must be filed through the electronic comment filing system available for that proceeding, and must be filed in their native format (*e.g.*, .doc, .xml, .ppt, searchable .pdf). Participants in this proceeding should familiarize themselves with the Commission's *ex parte* rules.

People with Disabilities: To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice), (202) 418-0432 (tty).

For further information, contact Carmell Weathers, (202) 418-2325 (voice), Carmell.Weathers@fcc.gov, or Rodney McDonald, (202) 418-7513 (voice), Rodney.McDonald@fcc.gov, of the Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau. The tty number is (202) 418-0484. For further information on procedures regarding section 214 please visit http://www.fcc.gov/wcb/cpd/other_adjud.

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