

**BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Application of Talk	)	Case No.19-2142-TP-ABN
America Services, LLC to Abandon its	)	
Certificate of Public Convenience and	)	
Necessity		

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**REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION  
SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE STAFF OF  
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

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On December 13, 2019, Talk America Services, LLC (Applicant) filed an application to abandon all telecommunications services and relinquish its certificate 90-9419 pursuant to Ohio Adm. Code 4901:1-6-26. The Applicant received certification as a competitive local exchange carrier (CLEC) in the state of Ohio on June 19, 2015 under case number 14-1439-TP-ACE. The Applicant offered local exchange, exchange access, and toll services to residential customers.

The Applicant is relinquishing its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) because it must discontinue telecommunications services in Ohio due to its underlying carrier, a Windstream CLEC subsidiary, no longer providing the services the Applicant relies upon to serve its own customers when the commercial agreement expires on April 24, 2020. The Applicant is discontinuing its services nationwide with all customers residing in AT&T Ohio's territory. The Applicant has requested its CPCN be canceled on or after January 23, 2020, to allow for transitioning of remaining customers and to close down the various aspects of its business prior to the commercial agreement expiration date.

The Applicant sent the first customer notice via US Mail on December 9, 2019, and a second notice was sent January 10, 2020, advising customers to find an alternative provider by January 23, 2020. In addition, the Applicant has committed to contacting all remaining customers with a phone call during a 3-5-day window prior to January 23, 2020, to assist in transitioning the remaining customers to another provider in their respective area. The Applicant has also committed to not disconnect any customers with an active transition order in process on the disconnection date.

Absent full or partial suspension, abandonment applications will be approved in accordance with the thirty-day automatic approval process described in rule 4901:1-6-05 of the O.A.C. The Staff

reviewed all documents filed with this application and has determined that the proposed application appears to satisfy the Commission's requirements set forth in 4901:1-6-26 of the Ohio Administrative Code. Staff recommends that this application be approved on January 12, 2020. Upon approval of the application, Staff will cancel Certificate No. 90-9419 and the associated TRF docket on or after January 23, 2020, as requested by the Applicant.

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Summary: Staff Review and Recommendation electronically filed by Jason Well on behalf of PUCO Staff