

FILE

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Review of the)
Commission Investigation Relative to the) Case No. 07-464-TP-COI
Establishment of Intrastate Access Charges)

5
RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV
2007 JAN 16 PM 2:00
PUCO

Joint Application for Waiver

United Telephone Company of Ohio d/b/a Embarq ("Embarq") and Arthur Mutual Telephone Company, Ayersville Telephone Company, Buckland Telephone Company, Farmers Mutual Telephone Company, Fort Jennings Telephone Company, Glandorf Telephone Company, Inc., Kalida Telephone Company, Inc., Middle Point Home Telephone Company, Ottoville Mutual Telephone Company, Ridgeville Telephone Company and Vaughnsville Telephone Company (the "Secondaries") (Embarq and the Secondaries are "Joint Applicants" to this Application) hereby seeks a waiver of the requirement set forth in this Commission's December 29, 1987 Entry in which the Commission approved the ORP-SCO Plan to change the billing method for the jointly provided private line and Foreign Exchange (FX) services to the Multiple Bill/Multiple Tariff ("MB/MT") methodology. This Application seeks the same relief that the Commission has granted to numerous Local Exchange Carriers ("LECs") in Ohio based on the LECs' respective Joint Applications filed in 83-464-TP-COI. In those filings, the subject companies sought to change the billing method for jointly provided private line services from the Single Bill/Multiple Tariff methodology, as required in the December 29, 1987 Entry, to the MB/MT methodology. In the Findings and Orders ruling on those requests, the Commission authorized the subject companies to change to the MB/MT billing method. See, Findings and Orders dated May 29, 2003 and August 18, 2004.

This is to certify that the images appearing are an accurate and complete reproduction of a case file document delivered in the regular course of business.
Technician SLB Date Processed 1-16-07

Embarq has made a business decision not to continue the existing PEC/SEC relationship with the Secondaries. Embarq submits that the dissolution of this PEC/SEC relationship and the implementation of the MB/MT arrangement with the Secondaries are in the public interest and should take place effective February 21, 2007. Embarq provided the requisite notice to the Secondaries on February 21, 2006 that it would terminate the ORP/SCO agreement with Secondaries effective on February 21, 2007. A copy of that notice is attached. The Secondaries have joined in this Application.

The use of the MB/MT methodology would provide the end user customers with a bill from each company for that company's portion of the jointly provided private line or FX circuit. The Joint Applicants submit that the MB/MT arrangement has been used successfully by the LEC industry in connection with other types of services for many years. Granting this Application would follow the precedent established by the previous Findings and Orders in connection with the billing of jointly provided private line and FX circuits in Ohio.

The billing method change will be implemented using a two phased approach. In Phase 1, which will be effective upon the granting of this Application, Embarq and the Secondaries will, on a going forward basis, bill end user customers utilizing the MB/MT method for all new jointly provided private line and FX circuits. In Phase 2, the billing for the existing jointly provided private line and FX circuits that are provided under tariff on a month-to-month basis will be converted to the MB/MT method effective on February 21, 2007. For the existing jointly provided line and FX circuits provided under a term plan (either an individual Contract or tariffed term plan) ("Contract"), the existing Contract terms and compensation arrangements will continue in effect until the Contract is renegotiated or the current term expires (whichever occurs

first). Upon Contract renegotiation or expiration, the affected circuits will be converted to the MB/MT method.

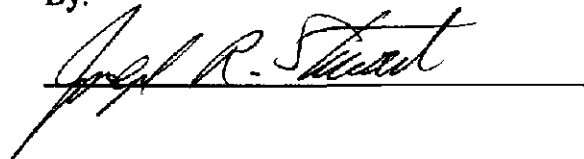
The Joint Applicants will work with the staff of the PUCO to ensure that the customers are fully informed about this billing change prior to its implementation. For new private line and FX circuits purchased after granting of this Application, the MB/MT arrangement will be fully explained to the customers prior to their purchase of the services. For the existing private line and FX circuits, Embarq will inform the existing customers of this billing change, via letter and/or personal contact, prior to the implementation of the MB/MT method. Attached to this Application is a proposed customer notice that was developed based on the customer notices that were previously approved by this Commission in connection with the original Joint Applications of the Secondaries noted above.

In accordance with the foregoing, the Joint Applicants respectfully request that the waiver described above be expeditiously granted since the required customer notice should be sent in January 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

United Telephone of Ohio d/b/a Embarq

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg R. Stewart", is written over a horizontal line.

Arthur Mutual Telephone Company
Ayersville Telephone Company
Buckland Telephone Company
Farmers Mutual Telephone Company
Fort Jennings Telephone Company
Glandorf Telephone Company, Inc.
Kalida Telephone Company, Inc.
Middle Point Home Telephone Company
Ottoville Mutual Telephone Company
Ridgeville Telephone Company
Vaughnsville Telephone Company

By: 

Thomas E. Lodge (0015741)

Carolyn S. Flahive (0072404)

THOMPSON HINE LLP

10 West Broad Street, Suite 700

Columbus, Ohio 43215

(614) 469-3200

(614) 469-3361 (fax)

Their Attorneys

IMPORTANT NOTICE
TO: OHIO CUSTOMERS WITH PRIVATE LINE OR FOREIGN EXCHANGE SERVICES JOINTLY
PROVIDED BY EMBARQ AND (Company Name)

Effective xxxxxx 1, 2007 you will see a change in your EMBARQ™ bill for Private Line and Foreign Exchange services that pass through or terminate within (Company Name) territory. This change is a result of a new billing arrangement between EMBARQ™ and (Company Name) that have been jointly providing these services for you.

The most significant aspect of this change is that EMBARQ will now bill you for the portion of your services actually provided to you by EMBARQ. The remaining portion of your Private Line or Foreign Exchange services will be billed by (Company Name). They will begin billing you after xxxxxx for the portion of the circuit that either passes through or terminates within their territory. In other words, you will receive two bills for your services, one from EMBARQ and another bill from (Company Name). The sum of these bills may be higher or lower than you are currently paying because this new billing arrangement more accurately reflects these companies' approved rates. Please keep in mind that the date on which you actually receive a bill from (Company Name) may vary from the date that the EMBARQ™ bill is issued.

This is a change in your billing only and will not impact any other aspect of your existing Private Line or Foreign Exchange services. The process currently used to order and provide these services and to report trouble will not change.

When you receive your EMBARQ™ bill and have any billing questions, please call the customer billing telephone number listed on your EMBARQ™ bill. If you have any billing questions regarding your bill from (Company Name), please call the customer billing telephone number listed on their bill. If you have a service request, please call EMBARQ