

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Application of Wide Voice, LLC for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Provide Telecommunications Services in Ohio.) Case No. 14-1472-TP-ACE

FINDING AND ORDER

The Commission finds:

- (1) R.C. 4927.05 prohibits a telephone company from operating in Ohio without first obtaining from the Commission a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. Among other things, a telephone company applicant must demonstrate evidence of its financial, managerial, and technical ability to provide adequate service to the public consistent with law. The Commission has adopted Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-6-08 setting forth requirements to demonstrate evidence of financial, managerial, and technical ability in order to obtain a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.
- (2) On August 21, 2014, Wide Voice, LLC (Wide Voice or Applicant) filed an application seeking authority to provide facilities-based and resold local exchange and interexchange telecommunications service as a competitive alternative to the traditional local telephone companies operating in Ohio. As part of its application, Wide Voice seeks approval of its proposed tariff, which would establish rules, regulations, and rates governing the proposed services.
- (3) On September 10, 2014, a motion to intervene was filed by The Ohio Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Ohio, AT&T Corp., and Teleport Communications America, LLC (the AT&T Entities). However, the AT&T Entities formally withdrew their motion to intervene by filing dated November 6, 2015.
- (4) By Entry issued on September 17, 2014, the attorney examiner fully suspended this case for a sixty-day period, based on a finding that additional information and investigation was needed in order for the Commission to complete its review of the application.

- (5) Pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-6-06(C), the application in this case was fully suspended from the automatic approval process by attorney examiner's Entry issued November 13, 2014. That same Entry directed Applicant to contact Staff and to supplement its application. Finding, once more, that certain additional information was still needed, the attorney examiner, by Entry dated May 19, 2015, directed Applicant to respond to certain specific questions set out in the Entry's Appendix. On July 1, 2015, Applicant filed its response to the questions contained in the Appendix to the May 19, 2015 Entry.
- (6) Information provided in Wide Voice's initial application and subsequent amendments demonstrate the following:
 - (a) Applicant is proposing to provide facilities-based and resold local exchange and interexchange telecommunications service as a competitive alternative to the traditional local telephone companies operating in Ohio. The officers of Wide Voice possess the managerial experience and technical expertise necessary to provide the services proposed to be offered in Ohio.
 - (b) Applicant has the financial viability to provide and sustain the services proposed to be offered in Ohio.
 - (c) Applicant is currently in good standing with the office of the Secretary of State of Ohio.
 - (d) Applicant has notified the Ohio Department of Taxation of its intent to operate as a telecommunications service provider in the State of Ohio.
- (7) Applicant has fulfilled the filing requirements of Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-6-08 and, therefore, Wide Voice's application for authority to provide the services it has proposed is approved. Accordingly, a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity shall be issued to Wide Voice authorizing it to provide facilities-based and resold local exchange and interexchange telecommunications service as a competitive

alternative to the traditional local telephone companies operating in Ohio.

- (8) Applicant also seeks to establish rules, regulations, and rates governing its telecommunications offerings. After inspecting the Applicant's proposed tariff, as amended and supplemented, the Commission finds the tariff to be in compliance with the Commission's rules and orders relevant to the service offerings proposed by Applicant. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that the tariff should be approved.
- (9) Wide Voice's proposed operations qualify it as a public utility as defined in R.C. 4905.02, and as a telephone company as defined in R.C. 4905.03(A), and, as such, is subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- (10) Based upon the record as a whole in this proceeding, the Commission is satisfied that Applicant has the necessary financial, managerial, and technical qualifications to receive a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. Accordingly, a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity shall be issued to Wide Voice authorizing the company to provide facilities-based and resold local exchange and interexchange telecommunications service as a competitive alternative to the traditional local telephone companies operating in Ohio.

It is, therefore,

ORDERED, That Wide Voice's application for authority to provide the services it has proposed is approved and Wide Voice shall be issued a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to provide facilities-based and resold local exchange and interexchange telecommunications service as a competitive alternative to the traditional local telephone companies operating in Ohio. It is, further,

ORDERED, That Wide Voice's tariff filed on August 21, 2014, as amended on September 10, 2014, is hereby approved. The earliest effective date of the approved tariff shall be the date upon which Wide Voice has filed with the Commission a copy of the approved tariff, along with the approved price lists. The tariff shall be effective for services rendered on or after such effective date. It is, further,

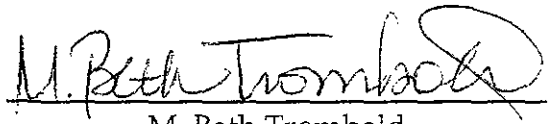
ORDERED, That a copy of this Finding and Order be served upon Applicant, its counsel, and all interested persons of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO



Andre T. Porter, Chairman

Lynn Slaby



M. Beth Trombold



Asim Z. Haque



Thomas W. Johnson

DEF/dah

Entered in the Journal

DEC 02 2015



Barcy F. McNeal
Secretary