

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Application of Conversent)	Case No. 21-0088-TP-ABN
Communications Resale, LLC dba Earthlink)	
Business to Abandon Certificate of Public)	
Convenience and Necessity)	

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

On January 27, 2021, Conversent Communications Resale, LLC dba Earthlink Business (“Applicant”) filed an application to abandon its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN). The Applicant, an affiliate of Windstream, is requesting to cancel its CPCN to provide local exchange services throughout the state of Ohio. The Applicant offered service to business customers only and due to the churn of the customers none remain. Applicant states it has not had customers for multiple years and, thus, is relinquishing its CPCN. Pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-6-07, a customer notice is required, but since the Applicant had no remaining customers, a notice was unnecessary.

The Applicant was issued CPCN, 90-9372, as a Competitive Local Exchange Carrier (CLEC) under Case No. 09-699-TP-ACE on November 13, 2009. Local exchange services were offered in the ILEC territory of AT&T Ohio.

Pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-6-36 and 4901:1-6-37, all telephone companies are required to file annual reports and TRS reports, if required by the FCC, for the Commission to calculate the appropriate assessment fees. The Applicant filed its 2019 annual and TRS reports timely and has paid all outstanding invoices for that filing year. Due to the current year’s filing period being open from February 1-April 30, 2021, the Applicant states it will file its reports when the other Windstream affiliates do so, but no later than April 30, 2021.

This application is being filed pursuant to the Commission’s 19-173-TP-ORD Telephone Company Procedures and Standards, as codified in Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-6-26, which states a telephone company seeking to abandon entirely telecommunications service in this state, including its tariff and CPCN, shall not abandon the service(s) it provides under a certificate without filing an abandonment application (ABN) to abandon service and to cancel its certificate

of operation. Absent full or partial suspension, an application in which the company is abandoning operations are approved in accordance with the thirty-day automatic approval process set forth in Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-6-05.

Staff reviewed all documents and exhibits filed with this application and has determined that the proposed application appears to satisfy the Commission's requirements set forth in Ohio Adm. Code 4901:1-6-26. Staff recommends that application be approved on February 26, 2021. Staff will cancel the Applicant's certificate, 90-9372, and make the necessary changes in Salesforce for reporting purposes after the application is approved. Staff will ensure the Applicant's TRF docket is closed within ten days of approval also.

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Summary: Staff Review and Recommendation electronically filed by Mrs. Tanika Hawkins on behalf of PUCO Staff