

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Application of)	Case No. 22-1077-TP-ABN
Consolidated Communications Network)	
Services, Inc. to Abandon services)	
)	

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

On November 7, 2022, Consolidated Communications Network Services, Inc. (“Applicant”) filed an application to abandon its certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) (ABN). The Applicant is a competitive telecommunications services provider that offered switched long distance for voice grade and low-speed dial-up data transmission services within the state of Ohio. The Applicant was issued certificate number 90-6171 on December 22, 2003, under Case No. 03-2323-TP-ACE. In 2009, the Applicant merged with Consolidated Communications Operator Services, Inc. under Case No. 08-1246-TP-CIO forming a new entity, Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc. dba Consolidate Communications Operator Services (CCOS). CCOS was issued certificate number 90-6117. The Applicant’s exiting certificate was not canceled at that time. CCOS continued to provide long distance services and operator services to customers from 2009 until it sold its operations in Ohio in January of 2022. The Applicant is no longer servicing customers and has not served any customer in Ohio under its 90-6171 certificate since January 2009. Consequently, the Applicant filed this ABN to cancel its CPCN.

This application is being filed pursuant to 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 ABN to abandon service and to cancel its certificate of operation. Further, Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-6-07 requires that a notice be provided to customers whenever a telephone company abandons service. As noted above, the Applicant does not have any customers in the state of Ohio. There is no customer base, thus there is no need to provide a customer notice.

Pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-6-36 and 4901:1-6-37, all telephone companies are required to file annual reports and, if required by the FCC to provide access to telecommunications relay service (TRS), TRS reports, for the Commission to calculate the appropriate assessment fees. As the Applicant has not served customers for some time, it has not been obligated to provide access to TRS and, as such, is not required to file an additional TRS report. The Applicant filed its annual

report on March 7, 2022. The invoice for the Applicant's annual assessment was due on November 1, 2022 and has been paid by the Applicant. Staff has notified the Applicant that it needs to complete 2023 annual report to complete Commission business.

Absent full or partial suspension, an application in which a company is abandoning operations is 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 December 21, 2022. Staff will cancel the Applicant's certificate, 90-6171, and make the necessary changes in Salesforce for reporting purposes. 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