

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Application of Connect-)
America, Inc. for Relief From Jurisdiction.) Case No. 98-111-CT-RRJ

FINDING AND ORDER

The Commission finds:

- (1) On January 15, 1998, ConnectAmerica, Inc. (ConnectAmerica or applicant) filed an application for relief from jurisdiction to provide intrastate, interexchange telecommunication services in the State of Ohio as a switchless rebiller.
- (2) On February 13, 1998, pursuant to the Commission's Entry on Rehearing of December 22, 1993, in *In the Matter of the Commission Investigation Into the Implementation of Sections 4927.01 Through 4927.05, Revised Code, as They Relate to Competitive Telecommunication Services*, Case No. 89-563-TP-COI (89-563), the attorney examiner issued an entry suspending the approval of this application so that this application could be reviewed more thoroughly.
- (3) On February 12, 1998, ConnectAmerica filed additional information to supplement its application.
- (4) ConnectAmerica has completed its application for relief from jurisdiction pursuant to the requirements of 89-563. The Commission, therefore, finds that the applicant's request for relief from jurisdiction should be granted.
- (5) Nothing herein binds the Commission in any subsequent proceeding involving the justness or the reasonableness of any rate, charge, or practice of the applicant. ConnectAmerica should take note that the Commission shall consider any individuals or companies engaged in the marketing of ConnectAmerica's services as agents of ConnectAmerica. ConnectAmerica, therefore, shall be held accountable for any acts of its agents that are inconsistent with ConnectAmerica's application or this Finding and Order.
- (6) Should ConnectAmerica choose to resell local basic exchange service or provide local prepaid calling card services, it will be required to make the appropriate filing with the Commission

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Technician Anna M. N. Date Processed April 3, 1998

in accordance with the Commission's local competition generic proceeding (Case No. 95-845-TP-COI). In that proceeding, the Commission determined that it has jurisdiction over rebillers of basic local exchange services and prescribed procedures and guidelines by which resale of basic local exchange services could be provided in Ohio. In light of the Commission's decision to assert jurisdiction over local rebillers, the applicant should be advised that the Commission is currently reconsidering its stance on whether entities like the applicant should likewise be subject to the Commission's jurisdiction. In the meantime, the applicant is authorized to operate pursuant to the current 89-563 guidelines, but the case shall remain open until the Commission determines the jurisdictional issue.

It is, therefore,

ORDERED, That, in accordance with Finding (4), ConnectAmerica's request for relief from jurisdiction is granted. It is, further,


ORDERED, That if ConnectAmerica intends to provide local prepaid calling card service or other local exchange services, it will be required to obtain prior Commission authorization. It is, further,

ORDERED, That a copy of this Finding and Order be served upon the applicant and all interested persons of record.

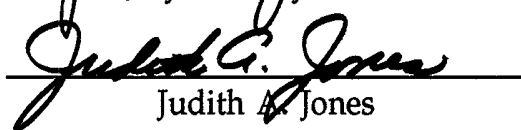
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO




Craig A. Glazer, Chairman



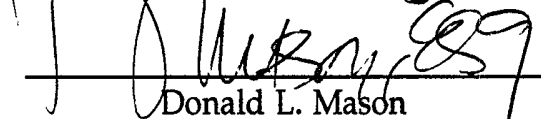
Jolynn Barry Butler



Judith A. Jones



Ronda Hartman Fergus



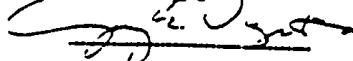
Donald L. Mason

LDJ/vrh

Entered in the Journal

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Gary E. Vigorito
Secretary

SERVICE NOTICE

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CASE NUMBER 98-111-CT-RRJ
CASE DESCRIPTION CONNECTAMERICA, INC.
DOCUMENT SIGNED ON April 2, 1998
DATE OF SERVICE 4-2-98

PERSONS SERVED

PARTIES OF RECORD

ATTORNEYS

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