

Decision 09-02-013 February 20, 2009

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Application of iNETWORKS GROUP, INC. for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Resell Local Exchange Telecommunications Services within the State of California. (U7107C)

Application 08-11-004  
(Filed November 3, 2008)

**DECISION GRANTING CERTIFICATE OF  
PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO iNETWORKS GROUP, INC.**

**1. Summary**

iNETWORKS GROUP, INC. is granted a certificate of public convenience and necessity pursuant to Pub. Util. Code § 1001 as a Competitive Local Exchange Carrier to provide resold competitive local exchange and private line business and residential services, subject to the terms and conditions set forth below. The application is unopposed. This proceeding is closed.

**2. Background**

In Decision (D.) 08-08-036, issued August 19, 2008, we authorized applicant to operate as a switchless reseller of inter- and intra-local access and transport area services in California as a non-dominant inter-exchange carrier and issued it utility identification number 7107. Applicant now seeks to expand its operating authority.

In prior decisions, we authorized the provision of competitive interexchange services by carriers meeting specified criteria. In addition, we authorized the provision of competitive local exchange service, by carriers meeting specified criteria, within the service territories of Pacific Bell Telephone

Company (Pacific), Verizon California Inc. (Verizon), SureWest Telephone (SureWest), and Citizens Telecommunications Company of California, Inc., dba Frontier Communications of California (CTC).<sup>1</sup>

Applicant's legal name is iNETWORKS GROUP, INC. Applicant is an Illinois corporation, authorized to do business in California, with its principal place of business at 125 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 2510, Chicago, IL 60606. The telephone number of its representative, Chris Collier, is (405) 755-8177.

### **3. Financial Qualifications**

To be granted a CPCN for authority to provide nonfacilities-based resold local exchange service, an applicant must demonstrate that it has \$25,000 cash or cash equivalent to meet the firm's start-up expenses.<sup>2</sup> Applicant provided financial documentation that demonstrates that it has sufficient cash to satisfy this financial requirement. An applicant must also demonstrate that it has sufficient additional resources to cover all deposits required by local exchange carriers and/or interexchange carriers (IECs) in order to provide the proposed service.<sup>3</sup> Applicant represents that it does not currently owe any deposits to local exchange or interexchange carriers in California.

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<sup>1</sup> SureWest was formerly known as Roseville Telephone Company.

<sup>2</sup> The financial standards for certification to operate as a CLC are set forth in D.95-12-056, Appendix C, Rule 2.

<sup>3</sup> The requirement for CLC applicants to demonstrate that they have additional financial resources to meet any deposits required by underlying LECs and/or IECs is set forth in D.95-12-056, Appendix C. For NDIECs, the requirement is found in D.93-05-010.

#### **4. Motion for Protective Order**

Pursuant to Pub. Util. Code § 583 and General Order 66-C, Applicant requests that the financial information and First and Fifth Year Customer Estimates submitted with the application be kept under seal. Applicant represents that the information is proprietary and sensitive, and the information, if revealed, would place Applicant at an unfair business disadvantage. We have granted similar requests in the past and will do so here.

All sealed information should remain sealed for a period of two years after the effective date of this order. If applicant believes that further protection of the sealed information is needed beyond the two years, applicant shall comply with the procedure set forth in Ordering Paragraph 10.

#### **5. Technical Qualifications**

Applicants for Non-Dominant Interexchange Carrier and Competitive Local Carrier (CLC) authority are required to make a reasonable showing of technical expertise in telecommunications or a related business. Applicant submitted biographical information on its officers that demonstrates that it possesses sufficient experience and knowledge to operate as a telecommunications provider.

Applicant represents that no one associated with or employed by Applicant as an affiliate, officer, director, partner, or owner of more than 10% of Applicant was previously associated with any telecommunication carrier that filed for bankruptcy, or has been found either civilly or criminally liable by a court of appropriate jurisdiction for a violation of § 17000, et seq. of the California Business and Professions Code, or for any actions which involved misrepresentations to consumers, nor is currently under investigation for similar violations.

**6. Tariffs**

Commission staff reviewed Applicant's draft tariffs for compliance with Commission rules and regulations. The deficiencies to be corrected are noted in Attachment A to this decision.

**7. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**

The CEQA requires the Commission as the designated lead agency to assess the potential environmental impact of a project in order that adverse effects are avoided, alternatives are investigated, and environmental quality is restored or enhanced to the fullest extent possible. Since Applicant states that it will not be constructing any facilities for the purpose of providing local exchange services, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that granting this application will have an adverse impact upon the environment. Applicant must file for additional authority, and submit to any necessary CEQA review, before it can construct facilities other than equipment to be installed in existing buildings or structures.

**8. Conclusion**

We conclude that the application conforms to our rules for certification as a CLC. Accordingly, we shall grant Applicant a CPCN to provide resold local exchange telecommunications services, subject to compliance with the terms and conditions set forth herein.

**9. Categorization and Need for Hearings**

In Resolution ALJ 176-3225, dated November 21, 2008, the Commission preliminarily categorized this application as ratesetting, and preliminarily determined that hearings were not necessary. No protests have been received. There is no apparent reason why the application should not be granted. Given

these developments, a public hearing is not necessary, and it is not necessary to disturb the preliminary determinations.

#### **10. Comments on Proposed Decision**

This is an uncontested matter in which the decision grants the relief requested. Accordingly, pursuant to Section 311(g)(2) of the Public Utilities Code and Rule 14.6(c)(2) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, the otherwise applicable 30-day period for public review and comment is waived.

#### **11. Assignment of Proceeding**

Rachelle B. Chong is the assigned Commissioner and Melanie M. Darling is the assigned Administrative Law Judge in this proceeding.

#### **Findings of Fact**

1. A notice of filing of the application appeared in the Daily Calendar on November 7, 2008.
2. There were no protests to this application.
3. A hearing is not required.
4. In prior decisions, the Commission authorized competition in providing local exchange telecommunications services within the service territories of Pacific, Verizon, SureWest, and CTC.
5. Applicant has a minimum of \$25,000 of cash or cash equivalent that is reasonably liquid and readily available to meet its start-up expenses.
6. Applicant's management possesses sufficient experience and knowledge to provide local exchange services to the public.
7. As part of its application, Applicant submitted a draft of its initial tariff that contained the deficiencies in Attachment A to this decision. Except for these deficiencies, Applicant's draft tariffs complied with the Commission's requirements.

8. Applicant does not propose to construct any facilities.

9. Public disclosure of the financial information filed under seal would place applicant at an unfair business disadvantage.

### **Conclusions of Law**

1. Applicant has the financial ability to provide the proposed service.

2. Applicant has made a reasonable showing of technical expertise in, or related to, telecommunications.

3. Public convenience and necessity require the competitive local exchange services to be offered by Applicant, subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein.

4. The application should be granted to the extent set forth below.

5. Applicant, once granted a CPCN, should be subject to the applicable Commission rules, decisions, General Orders, and statutes that pertain to California public utilities.

6. Applicant's initial tariff filing should correct the deficiencies noted in its draft tariffs as indicated in Attachment A to this decision.

7. Since Applicant does not propose to construct any facilities, it can be seen with certainty that granting it authority to provide local exchange services will not have a significant adverse effect upon the environment.

8. Applicant's request to file its financial information under seal should be granted for two years.

9. Because of the public interest in competitive local exchange services, the following order should be effective immediately.

**O R D E R**

**IT IS ORDERED** that:

1. A certificate of public convenience and necessity is granted to iNETWORKS GROUP, INC. (Applicant) to provide resold local exchange services in the service territories of Pacific Bell Telephone Company, Verizon California Inc., SureWest Telephone, and Citizens Telecommunications Company of California, Inc., subject to the terms and conditions set forth below.

2. Applicant is authorized to file tariff schedules for the provision of competitive local exchange services. Applicant may not offer competitive local exchange services until tariffs are on file. Applicant's initial filing shall be made in accordance with General Order (GO) 96-B, and shall correct the deficiencies noted in Attachment A. The tariff shall be effective not less than one day after approval by the Commission's Communications Division. Applicant shall comply with its tariffs.

3. The certificate granted and the authority to render service under the rates, charges, and rules authorized herein will expire if not exercised within 12 months after the effective date of this order.

4. The corporate identification number U7107C, shall be included in the caption of all original filings with this Commission, and in the titles of other pleadings filed in existing cases.

5. Applicant shall comply with all applicable rules adopted in the Local Exchange Competition proceeding (Rulemaking 95-04-043/ Investigation 95-04-044), as well as all other applicable Commission rules, decisions, GOs and statues that pertain to California public utilities, subject to the exemptions granted in this decision.

6. Applicant shall correct the deficiencies noted in its draft tariffs as indicated in Attachment A to this decision.

7. Applicant shall comply with the requirements applicable to competitive local exchange carriers included in Attachment B to this decision.

8. Applicant is not authorized to construct facilities.

9. Applicant's request to have the financial information filed with the application kept under seal is granted for two years from the effective date of this decision. During that period, the information shall not be made accessible or disclosed to anyone other than the Commission staff except on the further order or ruling of the Commission, the assigned Commissioner, the assigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ), or the ALJ then designated as Law and Motion Judge.

10. If Applicant believes that further protection of the information kept under seal is needed, it may file a motion stating the justification for further withholding of the information from public inspection, or for such other relief as the Commission's rules may then provide. This motion shall be filed no later than one month before the expiration date.

11. Application 08-11-004 is closed.

This order is effective today.

Dated February 20, 2009, at San Francisco, California.

MICHAEL R. PEEVEY  
President  
DIAN M. GRUENEICH  
JOHN A. BOHN

RACHELLE B. CHONG  
TIMOTHY ALAN SIMON  
Commissioners

**ATTACHMENT A**

List of deficiencies in draft tariff submitted by iNETWORK GROUP, INC., in A.08-11-004 to be corrected in its initial tariff compliance filing.

1. Tariff Inspection – Include a telephone number and a company address in California where a copy of tariff can be inspected by the public. (GO 96-B, Section 8.1.3).
2. ULTS, Sheet 147 – Conform Lifeline service offers with those located on CPUC website.

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/Telco/Public+Programs/lifeline details.htm>

**(END OF ATTACHMENT A)**

## ATTACHMENT B

### REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO COMPETITIVE LOCAL EXCHANGE CARRIERS

1. Applicant shall file, in this docket, a written acceptance of the certificate granted in this proceeding within 30 days of the effective date of this order.
2. Applicant is subject to the following fee and surcharges that must be regularly remitted per the instructions in Appendix E to Decision (D.) 00-10-028. The Combined California PUC Telephone Surcharge Transmittal Form must be submitted even if the amount due is zero.
3. Revenues collected for the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) at the surcharge rate of 0.25% shall be held by the carrier in a memorandum account tracking system and the account will accrue monthly interest on the accumulated balance at the short-term commercial paper rate. Carriers shall continue to hold custody of all the collected CASF surcharge revenues and accumulated interest until the Commission provides further direction on the disposition of these revenues.
  - a. The current 1.15% surcharge applicable to all intrastate services except for those excluded by D.94-09-065, as modified by D.95-02-050, to fund the Universal Lifeline Telephone Service Trust Administrative Committee Fund (Pub. Util. Code § 879; Resolution T-17071, dated March 1, 2007, effective April 1, 2007);
  - b. The current 0.20% surcharge applicable to all intrastate services except for those excluded by D.94-09-065, as modified by D.95-02-050, to fund the California Relay Service and Communications Devices Fund (Pub. Util. Code § 2881; D.98-12-073 and Resolution T-17127, dated December 20, 2007, effective January 1, 2008);

- c. The user fee provided in Pub. Util. Code §§ 431-435, which is 0.18% of gross intrastate revenue (Resolution M-4819), dated June 7, 2007, effective July 1, 2007;
- d. The current 0.13% surcharge applicable to all intrastate services except for those excluded by D.94-09-065, as modified by D.95-02-050, to fund the California High Cost Fund-A (Pub. Util. Code § 739.3; D.96-10-066, pp. 3-4, App. B, Rule 1.C; Resolution T-17128, dated December 20, 2007, effective January 1, 2008);
- e. The current 0.25% surcharge applicable to all intrastate services except for those excluded by D.94-09-065, as modified by D.95-02-050, to fund the California High Cost Fund-B (D.96-10-066, p. 191, App. B, Rule 6.F., D.07-12-054);
- f. The current 0.25% surcharge applicable to all intrastate services except for those excluded by D.94-09-065, as modified by D.95-02-050, to fund the California Advances Services Fund (D.07-12-054); and
- g. The current 0.079% surcharge applicable to all intrastate services except for those excluded by D.94-09-065, as modified by D.95-02-050, to fund the California Teleconnect Fund (D.96-10-066, p. 88, App. B, Rule 8.G, Resolution T-17142, dated April 29, 2008, effective June 1, 2008).

Note: These fees change periodically. In compliance with Resolution T-16901, December 2, 2004, Applicant should check the joint tariff for surcharges and fees filed by Pacific Bell (dba SBC California) and apply the current surcharge and fee amounts in that joint tariff on end-user bills until further revised.

4. Applicant is a competitive local exchange carrier (CLC). The effectiveness of its future tariffs is subject to the requirements of General Order 96-B and the Telecommunications Industry Rules (D.07-09-019).

5. Applicant is a nondominant interexchange carrier (NDIEC). The effectiveness of its future NDIEC tariffs is subject to the requirements of General Order 96-B and the Telecommunications Industry Rules (D.07-09-019).

6. Tariff filings shall reflect all fees and surcharges to which Applicant is subject, as reflected in 2 above.

7. Applicant shall file a service area map as part of its initial tariff.

8. Prior to initiating service, Applicant shall provide the Commission's Consumer Affairs Branch with the name and address of its designated contact person(s) for purposes of resolving consumer complaints. This information shall be updated if the name or telephone number changes, or at least annually.

9. Applicant shall notify the Director of the Communications Division in writing of the date that local exchange service is first rendered to the public, no later than five days after service first begins.

10. Applicant shall notify the Director of the Communications Division in writing of the date interLATA service is first rendered to the public within five days after service begins, and again within five days after intraLATA service begins.<sup>1</sup>

11. Applicant shall keep its books and records in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

12. In the event Applicant's books and records are required for inspection by the Commission or its staff, it shall either produce such records at the

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<sup>1</sup> California is divided into ten Local Access and Transport Areas (LATAs), each containing numerous local telephone exchanges. InterLATA describes services, revenues and functions relating to telecommunications originating within one LATA and terminating in another LATA. IntraLATA describes services, revenues and functions relating to telecommunications originating within a single LATA.

Commission's offices or reimburse the Commission for the reasonable costs incurred in having Commission staff travel to its office.

13. Applicant shall file an annual report with the Director of the Communications Division, in compliance with GO 104-A, on a calendar-year basis with the information contained in Attachment C to this decision.

14. Applicant shall file an affiliate transaction report with the Director of the Communications Division, in compliance with D.93-02-019, on a calendar year basis using the form contained in Attachment D.

15. Applicant shall ensure that its employees comply with the provisions of Public Utilities (Pub. Util.) Code § 2889.5 regarding solicitation of customers.

16. Within 60 days of the effective date of this order, Applicant shall comply with Pub. Util. Code § 708, Employee Identification Cards, and notify the Director of the Communications Division in writing of its compliance.

17. If Applicant is 90 days or more late in filing an annual report, or in remitting the surcharges and fee listed in 2 above, the Communications Division shall prepare for Commission consideration a resolution that revokes Applicant's CPCN unless it has received written permission from the Communications Division to file or remit late.

18. Applicant is exempt from Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure 18(b).

19. Applicant is exempt from Pub. Util. Code §§ 816-830.

20. Applicant is exempt from the requirements of Pub. Util. Code § 851 for the transfer or encumbrance of property whenever such transfer or encumbrance serves to secure debt.

21. If Applicant decides to discontinue service or file for bankruptcy, it shall immediately notify the Communications Division's Bankruptcy Coordinator.

22. Applicant shall send a copy of this decision to concerned local permitting agencies not later than 30 days from the date of this order.

**(END OF ATTACHMENT B)**

## ATTACHMENT C

### ANNUAL REPORT

An original and a machine readable, copy using Microsoft Word or compatible format shall be filed with the California Public Utilities Commission, State Office Building, 505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 3107, San Francisco, CA 94102-3298, no later than March 31st of the year following the calendar year for which the annual report is submitted.

Failure to file this information on time may result in a penalty as provided for in §§ 2107 and 2108 of the Public Utilities Code.

Required information:

1. Exact legal name and U # of the reporting utility.
2. Address.
3. Name, title, address, and telephone number of the person to be contacted concerning the reported information.
4. Name and title of the officer having custody of the general books of account and the address of the office where such books are kept.
5. Type of organization (*e.g.*, corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, etc.).  
If incorporated, specify:
  - a. Date of filing articles of incorporation with the Secretary of State.
  - b. State in which incorporated.
6. Number and date of the Commission decision granting the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.
7. Date operations were begun.
8. Description of other business activities in which the utility is engaged.
9. List of all affiliated companies and their relationship to the utility. State if affiliate is a:
  - a. Regulated public utility.
  - b. Publicly held corporation.
10. Balance sheet as of December 31st of the year for which information is submitted.

11. Income statement for California operations for the calendar year for which information is submitted.

For answers to any questions concerning this report, call (415) 703-2883.

**(END OF ATTACHMENT C)**

## ATTACHMENT D

### CALENDAR YEAR AFFILIATE TRANSACTION REPORT

1. Each utility shall list and provide the following information for each affiliated entity and regulated subsidiary that the utility had during the period covered by the annual Affiliate Transaction report.

- Form of organization (*e.g.*, corporation, partnership, joint venture, strategic alliance, etc.);
- Brief description of business activities engaged in;
- Relationship to the utility (*e.g.*, controlling corporation, subsidiary, regulated subsidiary, affiliate);
- Ownership of the utility (including type and percent ownership)
- Voting rights held by the utility and percent; and
- Corporate officers.

2. The utility shall prepare and submit a corporate organization chart showing any and all corporate relationships between the utility and its affiliated entities and regulated subsidiaries in #1 above. The chart should have the controlling corporation (if any) at the top of the chart; the utility and any subsidiaries and/or affiliates of the controlling corporation in the middle levels of the chart and all secondary subsidiaries and affiliates (*e.g.*, a subsidiary that in turn is owned by another subsidiary and/or affiliate) in the lower levels. Any regulated subsidiary should be clearly noted.

3. For a utility that has individuals who are classified as “controlling corporations” of the competitive utility, the utility must only report under the requirements of #1 and #2 above any affiliated entity that either (a) is a public utility or (b) transacts any business with the utility filing the annual report excluding the provision of tariff services.

4. Each annual report must be signed by a corporate officer of the utility stating under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California (CCP 2015.5) that the annual report is complete and accurate with no material omissions.

5. Any required material that a utility is unable to provide must be reasonably described and the reasons the data cannot be obtained, as well as the efforts expended to obtain the information, must be set forth in the utility's annual Affiliate Transaction Report and verified in accordance with Section I-F of Decision 93-02-019.

6. Utilities that do not have affiliated entities must file, in lieu of the annual transaction report, an annual statement to the Commission stating that the utility had no affiliated entities during the report period. This statement must be signed by a corporate officer of the utility, stating under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California (CCP 2015.5) that the annual report is complete and accurate with no material omissions.

**(END OF ATTACHMENT D)**