

CC Docket 96-159

Received *75*

FCC MAIL ROOM

JAN 3 1997 / 24/97

AUG 21 1997

Common Carrier
Network
Office

RECEIVED
Dear Federal Communications Commission

I am writing this letter in reference to the efforts of the Citizens of Haskell, Texas (local telephone service is provided by GTE, Haskell is in the Wichita Falls LATA) to have Abilene, Hamlin and Stamford, Texas (local telephone service for these three cities is provided by Southwestern Bell, all three are in the Abilene LATA) as local telephone calls instead of long distance calls. The Citizens of Haskell voted in October of last year to approve Abilene as a local telephone call in our Expanded Local Calling (ELC) area. Previously the Citizens of Hamlin and Stamford had voted on and approved Haskell as a part of their ELC. Unfortunately, Abilene, Hamlin and Stamford as local phone calls has been put on an indefinite hold, due to the fact that Southwestern Bell Telephone Company is not in the long distance telephone business. It is my understanding that Southwestern Bell has petitioned to be in this business but a decision is being delayed as the Federal Communications Commission, Texas Public Utilities Commission and Southwestern Bell work out their differences.

I feel this delay is a great injustice to the Citizens of Haskell. Abilene is a very important regional center for our city. Abilene is a major retail and wholesale center, and regional government offices are located there. Many Haskell residents are enrolled in one of the three universities and the junior college in Abilene. Abilene is a major medical center for this area. Many businesses in Haskell are branches which have their headquarters in Abilene, and many of our residents commute there for jobs. Hamlin and Stamford are important retail markets for our local merchants. Many Haskell residents have family and friends located in these two communities.

I am requesting that you offer all of the assistance you can in our efforts to make local telephone calls to Abilene, Hamlin and Stamford a reality in the very near future. I want to thank you in advance for your efforts on my and Haskell's behalf.

Sincerely,

Jack & Dawn Burrell and
Name Jack & Dawn Burrell and
Address 107 N 2nd St
Haskell, TX 79521
817-864-2869

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

FCC MAIL ROOM

Received

JAN 30 1997 - 25-97

AUG 21 1997

RE LIVE Dear Federal Communications Commission

Common Carrier Bureau
Network Service Division
Office of the Chief

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Sincerely,

Name Bell Shaw
Address 505 N. W. C
Haskell, TX 79521
817-864-3435

No. of Comments 0
Date _____

Date 1-24-1997

FCC MAIL 1

Received

AUG 21 1997

Common Carrier
Network
Office of the Chief

JAN 30 1997

Dear

Sir

RECEIVED

I am writing this letter in reference to the efforts of the Citizens of Haskell, Texas (local telephone service is provided by GTE, Haskell is in the Wichita Falls LATA) to have Abilene, Hamlin and Stamford, Texas (local telephone service for these three cities is provided by Southwestern Bell, all three are in the Abilene LATA) as local telephone calls instead of long distance calls. The Citizens of Haskell voted in October of last year to approve Abilene as a local telephone call in our Expanded Local Calling (ELC) area. Previously the Citizens of Hamlin and Stamford had voted on and approved Haskell as a part of their ELC. Unfortunately, Abilene, Hamlin and Stamford as local phone calls has been put on an indefinite hold, due to the fact that Southwestern Bell Telephone Company is not in the long distance telephone business. It is my understanding that Southwestern Bell has petitioned to be in this business but a decision is being delayed as the Federal Communications Commission, Texas Public Utilities Commission and Southwestern Bell work out their differences.

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Sincerely,

Name Doris Darnell
Address 1211 N. Main St
Haskell, TX 79521
817-864-2400

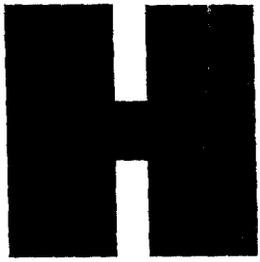
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CC Detail 16757

FCC MAIL ROOM

JAN 30 1997

RECEIVED



CITY OF HASKELL

P.O. Box 1003 • Haskell, Texas 79521 • 817 864-2333

January 23, 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Consumer Complaints
Stop Code 1600A2
Washington DC 20554

Dear Sir/Ms.:

I am writing this letter in reference to the efforts of the Citizens of Haskell, Texas (local telephone service is provided by GTE, Haskell is in the Wichita Falls LATA) to have Abilene, Hamlin and Stamford, Texas (local telephone service for these three cities is provided by Southwestern Bell, all three are in the Abilene LATA) as local telephone calls instead of long distance calls. The Citizens of Haskell voted in October of last year to approve Abilene as a local telephone call in our Expanded Local Calling (ELC) area. Previously the Citizens of Hamlin and Stamford had voted on and approved Haskell as a part of their ELC. Unfortunately, Abilene, Hamlin and Stamford as local phone calls has been put on an indefinite hold, due to the fact that Southwestern Bell Telephone Company is not in the long distance telephone business. It is my understanding that Southwestern Bell has petitioned to be in this business but a decision is being delayed as the Federal Communications Commission, Texas Public Utilities Commission and Southwestern Bell work out their differences.

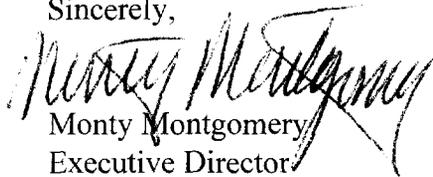
I feel this delay is a great injustice to the Citizens of Haskell. Abilene is a very important regional center for our city. Abilene is a major retail and wholesale center, and regional government offices are located there. Many Haskell residents are enrolled in one of the three universities and the junior college in Abilene. Abilene is a major medical center for this area. Many businesses in Haskell are branches which have their headquarters in Abilene, and many of our residents commute there for jobs. Hamlin and Stamford are important retail markets for our local merchants. Many Haskell residents have family and friends located in these two communities. Also to be considered are the economic development possibilities for Haskell that will exist with ELC to Abilene, Hamlin and Stamford.

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Page 2

I am requesting that you offer all of the assistance you can in our efforts to make local telephone calls to Abilene, Hamlin and Stamford a reality in the very near future. I want to thank you in advance for your efforts on my and Haskell's behalf.

Sincerely,



Monty Montgomery
Executive Director
Development Corporation of Haskell, Inc.

H CITY OF
HASKELL
MONTY MONTGOMERY
Economic Development
Executive Director

P.O. Box 1001
Haskell, Texas 79521

817-864-3424
Fax 817-864-2766

FCC MAIL ROOM

JAN 30 1997

RECEIVED

EDC NOTES

BY

MONTY MONTGOMERY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF HASKELL, INC.

With the announcement of the Expanding Local Calling (ELC) start up schedule in last week's paper, I am sure there are questions in everyone's mind on when Abilene will be a local telephone call from Haskell. Hamlin and Stamford have passed Haskell for their ELC and are currently not available for the same reasons as Abilene. I am going to try my best to explain to you all what the situation is concerning this subject, and how each one of you can help the city in its efforts to get Abilene, Hamlin and Stamford as a local telephone call.

Currently Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (Abilene, Hamlin and Stamford's local telephone provider) is not in the long distance business; because of this Southwestern Bell cannot provide phone service across the Local Access Transport Area (LATA) boundaries. Haskell is in the Wichita Falls LATA and Abilene is in the Abilene LATA. Haskell is the only city in the Wichita Falls LATA that qualifies for ELC to Abilene, this is because we fall within the maximum 50 mile ELC limit from Abilene. For a map of the current LATA boundaries for Texas, please refer to page 16 of your August 1996 edition of the Haskell GTE Phone Book.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Texas Public Utilities Commission (PUC) are requiring Southwestern Bell to meet certain criteria before they are authorized to begin their long distance service. Southwestern Bell does not believe it should have to meet all of these criteria and is challenging the FCC and the PUC on these proposed regulations. The situation currently is that all three of these organizations are trying to reach some kind of mutual agreement. When this will be accomplished is the question being asked throughout Texas. According to the PUC there are currently 54 communities like Haskell that have passed ELC to cities in adjoining LATA's that have Southwestern Bell as their local telephone provider. Some of these cities have been waiting since 1993 for this situation to be resolved.

While Southwestern Bell, the FCC and the PUC continue to negotiate there is a second possibility that could occur to resolve this situation. Currently a movement in the FCC is underway to abolish all of the LATA's in the United States. If this were to happen, in theory it would not be necessary for Southwestern Bell to be in the long distance business to cross LATA lines because they would no longer exist and we should be able to have local calling to Abilene, Hamlin and Stamford. Anybody confused?

Haskell City officials and the Development Corporation of Haskell, Inc. (DCOH) are working with state and federal elected representatives to help our efforts in resolving this situation. On Friday, January 10, 1997, the City and the DCOH formally petitioned the PUC to allow us to participate in the public hearings that will be held in the near future concerning Southwestern Bell's entry into the long distance business. Our goal is to have this situation straightened out within the next 12 months if not sooner. As all of you know, when the federal government is involved, anything can happen. All of you can help by writing letters to these folks supporting our efforts to accomplish our goal of achieving local telephone calling to Abilene, Hamlin and Stamford. Listed below are the names and addresses of the FCC, PUC and our state and federal representatives that need to hear from all of you concerning this matter. To make this an easier process for all concerned, there is a pre-written letter available to the public that will require you write in the date, the addressee, your signature, address and phone number. Copies of this letter can be picked up Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM till 5:00 PM at the Haskell City Hall. Please do not forget to bring your own stamped envelopes when you pick up your copies of this letter. As always the City of Haskell and the DCOH appreciate your continued support on our efforts to make Haskell a better place to live.

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison
283 Russell Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-5922

Senator Phil Gramm
370 Russell Bldg.
Washington DC 20510
202-224-2934

Congressman Charles Stenholm
1211 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington DC 20515
915-773-3623

Governor George Bush
PO Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711
512-463-2198

Representative Charles Finnell
PO Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768
512-463-0526

Senator Tom Haywood
PO Box 12068
Austin, TX 78711
512-463-0130

Federal Communications Commission
Consumer Complaints
Stop Code 1600A2
Washington DC 20554
202-418-0200

Brenda Jenkins
Executive Director
Public Utilities Commission
PO Box 13326
Austin, TX 78711-3326
512-936-7000