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7852 Walker Drive, Suite 200
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770
phone: 301-459-7590, fax: 301-577-5575
internet: www.jsitel.com, e-mail: jsi@jsitel.com

VIA ECFS

January 4, 2016

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Section 63.71 Application of Eastex Telephone Cooperative, Inc. for Authority to
Discontinue Certain Services

JSI respectfully files the enclosed Application of Eastex Telephone Cooperative,
Inc. for Authority to Discontinue Certain Services. This filing is made in compliance with
Section 63.71 of the Commission's rules (47 C.F.R. § 63.71).

Sincerely,

Valerie Wimer
Vice President

on behalf of

Steve Alexander
Chief Financial Officer
Eastex Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Enclosures

cc: Steve Alexander, Chief Financial Officer
Eastex Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Echelon Building II, Suite 200
9430 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78759
phone: 512-338-0473, fax: 512-346-0822

Eagandale Corporate Center, Suite 310
1380 Corporate Center Curve, Eagan, MN 55121
phone: 651-452-2660, fax: 651-452-1909

6849 Peachtree Dunwoody Road
Bldg. B-3, Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30328
phone: 770-569-2105, fax: 770-410-1608

547 South Oakview Lane
Bountiful, UT 84010
phone: 801-294-4576, fax: 801-294-512

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)
)
Section 63.71 Application of) Comp. Pol. File No. _____
Eastex Telephone Cooperative, Inc.)
For Authority to Discontinue)
Certain Services)

SECTION 63.71 APPLICATION

Pursuant to Sections 63.71 of the Commission's Rules¹ and Section 214(a) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended,² Eastex Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("Eastex" or the "Cooperative") hereby files this application to discontinue the provision of select operator services to customers that the Cooperative serves in the State of Texas ("Application").³ In support of this Application, Eastex submits the following:

I. Information Required by Section 63.71(a)(1) - (4)

A. Name and Address of Carrier

Eastex Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
3675 U.S. Hwy. 79 S
Henderson, TX 75653

For purposes of this Application, the Commission may contact:

Steve Alexander, CFO
Eastex Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
3675 U.S. Hwy. 79 S
Henderson, TX 75653
903-854-1000
stevea@eastex.com

¹ See 47 C.F.R. § 63.71.

² See 47 U.S.C. § 214(a).

³ As required by Section 63.71(a) of the Commission's Rules, Eastex has notified and submitted a copy of this Application concurrent with this filing to the Public Utilities Commission of Texas, the Governor of Texas, and the Secretary of the Department of Defense.

B. Date of Planned Service Discontinuance

Eastex will discontinue operator-assisted collect calls, third-party billed calls, credit card calls, busy line verification, busy interrupt and person-to-person services to its customers in the State of Texas on or after April 4, 2016, upon completion of all necessary federal and state regulatory approvals.

C. Points of Geographic Areas of Service Affected

Affected Eastex local exchange customers are in the Cooperative's service area which includes 21 exchanges and portions of 10 counties in east Texas.

D. Brief Description of the Types of Service Affected

In the areas referenced above, Eastex provides the following services which will be discontinued (collectively, "Affected Services"):

- Collect Call - A billing arrangement by which the charge for a call may be reversed provided the charge is accepted at the called service point.
- Billed to Third Number - A billing arrangement by which an operator-assisted call may be charged to an authorized service point other than the service point originating the call or the service point where the call is terminated.
- Billed to Credit Card – A billing arrangement by which an operator-assisted call may be charged to an authorized credit card.
- Line Status Verification – An operator service allowing the operator to confirm when a line is idle or in use.
- Busy Interrupt – An operator service allowing the operator to break into a conversation when a line is in use.
- Person-to-Person - A service where the person originating the call specifies to the Cooperative operator a particular person to be reached, a particular mobile service point to be reached through a Mobile Telephone Service attendant, or a particular station, department or office to be reached through a PBX attendant.

This discontinuance is limited to the Affected Services. Customers will continue to have access to all other current services without interruption.

II. Brief Description of the Dates and Methods of Notice to All Affected Customers

Notices were sent to all Eastex's local exchange customers as a bill insert by method of U.S. Mail on January 4, 2016. Please reference Exhibit A which is a sample copy of the

Notice sent to the affected customers. Eastex deemed the bill insert the most economic method of reaching its rural customers and printed the insert on distinctly colored paper to distinguish it from the billing statement and bring sufficient attention to the Notice.

III. Status of Carrier

Eastex is an incumbent local exchange carrier and considered a dominant carrier with respect to the services that it proposes to discontinue in the State of Texas.

IV. Circumstances of Discontinuance

The Cooperative's discontinuance of the Affected Services was a business decision based on a lack of customer demand for the service. In the preceding 12 months, the Cooperative has identified only 16 instances of busy line verify, six of busy interrupt and five instances of collect calls, and no additional usage of the remaining Affected Services. Therefore, the discontinuance of these services will not adversely affect the Cooperative's customers.

V. Certification

On behalf of Eastex Telephone Cooperative, Inc., I, the undersigned CFO, Steve Alexander, hereby certify that the statements contained herein are true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and made in good faith.

VI. Conclusion

For the reasons stated herein, the Cooperative respectfully requests grant of this Application.

Respectfully Submitted,



Steve Alexander
Chief Financial Officer
Eastex Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
3675 U.S. Hwy. 79 S
Henderson, TX 75653
903-854-1000
stevena@eastex.com

12/18/2015
Date

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing Section 63.71 Application was served this 4th day of January, 2016, by mailing true and correct copies thereof, postage prepaid, to the following persons at the addresses listed below.

Public Utility Commission of Texas
Central Records
1701 N Congress
P.O. Box 13326
Austin, Texas 78711-3326

Office of Governor Greg Abbott
State of Texas
State Insurance Building/1100 San Jacinto
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Secretary of Defense
Attn: Special Assistant for Telecommunications,
Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301


Marty Klub

EXHIBIT A

CUSTOMER NOTICE

FCC-Required Notice of Discontinuance of Certain Operator Services

January 4, 2016

Dear Valued Customer:

This letter is to inform you that on or after April 4, 2016, Eastex Telephone Cooperative, Inc., ("Eastex") will no longer be providing certain operator services within the state of Texas. Customers who attempt to utilize the discontinued services will be informed by the operator that the service is not available. Specifically, the following operator services will be discontinued.

- Collect Call - A billing arrangement by which the charge for a call may be reversed provided the charge is accepted at the called service point.
- Billed to Third Number - A billing arrangement by which an operator-assisted call may be charged to an authorized service point other than the service point originating the call or the service point where the call is terminated.
- Billed to Credit Card - A billing arrangement by which an operator-assisted call may be charged to an authorized credit card.
- Line Status Verification - An operator service allowing the operator to confirm when a line is idle or in use.
- Busy Interrupt - An operator service allowing the operator to break into a conversation when a line is in use.
- Person-to-Person - A service where the person originating the call specifies to the Cooperative operator a particular person to be reached, a particular mobile service point to be reached through a Mobile Telephone Service attendant, or a particular station, department or office to be reached through a PBX attendant.

This discontinuance is limited to the above operator services and will not affect your Eastex service in any other way. Customers will continue to access general operator services, including operator assisted dialing, handling sent-paid calls, handling emergency calls and providing rate quotes where available.

The FCC will normally authorize this proposed discontinuance of service unless it is shown that customers would be unable to receive service or a reasonable substitute from another carrier or that the public convenience and necessity is otherwise adversely affected. If you wish to object, you should file your comments as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days after the Commission releases public notice of the proposed discontinuance. You may file your comments electronically through the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System using the docket number established in the Commission's public notice for this proceeding, or you may address them to the Federal Communications Commission, Wireline Competition Bureau, Competition Policy Division, Washington, DC 20554, and include in your comments a reference to the §63.71 Application of Eastex Telephone Cooperative, Inc. Comments should include specific information about the impact of this proposed discontinuance upon you or your company, including any inability to acquire reasonable substitute service.

If you have any questions about this notice or Eastex's discontinuance of the aforementioned operator services, please contact us at 3675 U.S. Hwy. 79 S, Henderson, Texas 75653 or call (903) 854-1186 during regular business hours.

We thank you for your business and look forward to continuing to serve your communications needs.

Sincerely,

Eastex Telephone Cooperative, Inc.