

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

In the Matter of)	
)	
Section 63.71 Application of Decatur)	WC Docket No. 16-_____
Telephone Company For Authority to)	Comp. Pol. File No. _____
Discontinue Certain Services)	
)	
)	

SECTION 63.71 APPLICATION

Pursuant to Sections 63.71 of the Commission's Rules (47 C.F.R. § 63.71) and Section 214(a) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (47 U.S.C. § 214(a)), Decatur Telephone Company (the "Company") hereby files this application to discontinue the provision of certain operator services to customers that the Company serves in the State of Mississippi (the "Application"). In support of this Application, the following information is submitted:

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

A. Name and Address of Carrier

Decatur Telephone Company
P.O. Box 146
Decatur MS, 39327

For purposes of this Application, the Commission may contact:

Dr. Esther B. Smith
President
Decatur Telephone Company
P.O. Box 146
Decatur MS, 39327
esther@decaturtelephone.com

Or the Company's counsel:

Thomas J. Moorman
Woods & Aitken, LLP
5151 Wisconsin Ave., N.W., Suite 310
Washington, D.C. 20016
tmoorman@woodsaitken.com

B. Date of Planned Service Discontinuance

The Company will discontinue certain local operator services to its customers on or about May 17, 2016, or upon completion of all necessary federal and state regulatory approvals.

C. Points of Geographic Areas of Service Affected

Affected local exchange customers are in the Company's service area which consists of the following exchange:

<u>NPA-NXX</u>	<u>Name of Exchange</u>	<u>County</u>
601-635	Decatur	Newton

D. Brief Description of the Types of Service Affected

The Company provides local exchange services within its service area as described in paragraph I.C, above. The following Operator Services will be discontinued in the Company's service area:

1. Person to Person – That service where the person originating the call specifies to the Company operators a particular person to be reached, a particular mobile service point to be reached through a Mobile Telephone Service attendant, or particular PBX Service point, department, or office to be reached.
2. 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.

3. Third Number Billed Call – 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.
4. Busy Line Verification – An operator service allowing the operator to confirm when a line is idle or in use.
5. Busy Line Interruption Service – An operator service allowing the operator to break into a conversation when a line is in use.
6. International Directory Assistance – A service that allows customers to obtain telephone numbers for international locations where such information is available.

Collect Calling, Person-to-Person Calling, Third Number Billed Calls, Busy Line Verification, Busy Line Interruption and International Directory Assistance are collectively referred to as the “Affected Services.” This discontinuance application is limited to the Affected Services.

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

Notices were sent to all of the Company’s local exchange customers via letter by U.S. Mail on March 17, 2016. Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, is a sample copy of the Notice sent to the affected customers.

In addition, and as required by Section 63.71(a) of the Commission's Rules, the Company has notified and submitted a copy of this Application concurrent with this filing to the Mississippi Public Service Commission, the Governor of Mississippi, and the Secretary of the Department of Defense.

III. Status of Carrier

The Company is a small, rural incumbent local exchange carrier and considered a dominant carrier with respect to the services that it proposes to discontinue in the State of

Mississippi.

IV. Circumstances of Discontinuance

The Company's discontinuance of the Affected Services was a business decision based on a lack of customer demand for the service. During the last 12 months only 28 calls have been placed using the above mentioned services. Accordingly, the Company does not believe that its customers will be adversely affected by the Company's discontinuance of the Affected Services.

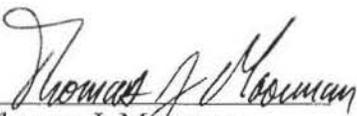
V. Certification

The Company's Certification is attached hereto as Exhibit B and incorporated herein by reference.

VI. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the Company respectfully requests grant of this Application.

Respectfully Submitted,

By: 
Thomas J. Moorman
Woods & Aitken, LLP
5151 Wisconsin Ave., N.W., Suite 310
Washington, D.C. 20016
Telephone: 202-944-9502
Facsimile: 202-944-9501

Counsel to Decatur Telephone Company

Date: March 17, 2016

EXHIBIT A

This notice is to inform you that on or after May 17, 2016, Decatur Telephone Company (the "Company") will no longer be providing certain operator services within the State of Mississippi.

Specifically, the following Operator Services will be discontinued:

Person to Person – That service where the person originating the call specifies to the Company operators a particular person to be reached, a particular mobile service point to be reach through a Mobile Telephone Service attendant, or particular PBX Service point, department, or office to be reached.

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.

Third Number Billed Call – 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.

Busy Line Verification – An operator service allowing the operator to confirm when a line is idle or in use.

Busy Line Interruption Service – An operator service allowing the operator to break into a conversation when a line is in use.

International Directory Assistance – A service that allows customers to obtain telephone numbers for international locations where such information is available.

This discontinuance is limited to these listed operator services and will not affect the services you receive from the Company in any other way. Customers will continue to have access to the following operator services: operator 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 Section 63.71 Application of Decatur Telephone Company. 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 the Company's operator services discontinuance, please contact the Company at 601-635-2251. The Company thanks you for your business and looks forward to continuing to serve your communications needs.

Decatur Telephone Company
149 7th St
P.O. Box 146
Decatur, MS 39327
601-635-2251

EXHIBIT B

On behalf of Decatur Telephone Company (the "Company"), I, the undersigned President for the Company, Esther B. Smith, hereby certify that the statements contained herein are true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and made in good faith.


Esther B. Smith


Date

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Thomas J. Moorman, of Woods & Aitken LLP, do hereby verify that on this 17th day of March, 2016, I caused to be sent via First Class US Mail, postage prepaid, the foregoing "SECTION 63.71 APPLICATION " to the following:

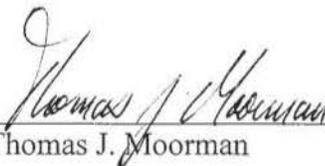
The Hon. Phil Bryant
Governor
P.O. Box 139
Jackson, MS 39205

Mississippi Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 1174
Jackson, MS 39215-1174

Secretary of Defense
Attn. Special Assistant for Telecommunications, Pentagon
US Department of State
Washington, DC 20301

- * Rodney McDonald
Wireline Competition Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington DC 20554

* via e-mail



Thomas J. Moorman