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Richard T. Ellis
Executive Director
Federal Regulatory

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June 5, 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

1300 I Street, NW
Suite 400 West
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 515-2534
(202) 336-7922 (fax)

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Request for Limited Modification of LATA Boundaries to Provide ELCS Between Verizon South Inc.'s Rocky Gap and United Telephone-Southeast, Inc.'s Bland Rate Exchanges

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Verizon South Inc. hereby submits this request for a LATA boundary modification to provide Expanded Local Calling Service (ELCS) between ELCS between Verizon South Inc.'s Rocky Gap and United Telephone-Southeast, Inc.'s Bland Rate Exchanges.

In its order released July 15, 1997¹ ("Order"), the Commission established an ongoing process for requesting LATA boundary modifications to provide ELCS. This request is filed pursuant to the provisions contained in that order. Attached please find the support documentation required by the Commission to approve the requested modification.

Should you have any questions regarding this material, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

cc: CeCi Seppings

Attachment

¹ "In the Matter of Petitions for Limited Modification of LATA Boundaries to Provide Expanded Local Calling Service (ELCS) at Various Locations", CC Docket No. 96-159, released July 15, 1997.

**Request for Limited Modification of LATA Boundaries to Provide ELCS Between
Verizon South Inc.'s Rocky Gap and United Telephone-Southeast, Inc.'s Bland
Rate Exchanges**

- (1) **Type of Service**
Traditional Local Service, Non Optional ELCS
- (2) **Direction of Service**
Two-Way
- (3) **Exchanges Involved**
ELCS between Verizon South Inc.'s Rocky Gap Exchange located in the Bluefield, West Virginia Independent Market Area and United Telephone-Southeast, Inc.'s Bland Exchange located in the Bristol-Johnson City, Tennessee Independent Marketing Area.
- (4) **Name of Carriers**
Rocky Gap – Verizon South Inc.
Bland – United Telephone-Southeast Inc.
- (5) **State Commission Approval**
The Virginia State Corporation issued a Final Order on February 13, 2006 approving ELCS for this route. A copy of the Final Order is attached.
- (6) **Number of Network Access Lines**
Rocky Gap Exchange - 1886
Bland Exchange - 1879
- (7) **Usage Data**
Messages per main station per month
Rocky Gap to Bland – 4.27
Bland to Rocky Gap – Data not available

Percent of subscribers making calls
Rocky Gap to Bland - Data not available
Bland to Rocky Gap - Data not available
- (8) **Poll Results**
Rocky Gap to Bland
68.5 percent of those responding voted for ELCS
Bland to Rocky Gap
65.8 percent of those responding voted for ELCS

(8) Poll Results (Continued)

ELCS Rate Increase - Rocky Gap

Residential

Flat Rate	\$2.40
Exchange Only Service	\$2.17
Economy Measured	\$1.26

Business

Flat Rate	\$4.83
Flat Key Line Service	\$4.83
Flat Rate Trunk	\$9.81
Measured Single Line	\$3.07
Measured Key Line	\$3.07

ELCS Rate Increase - Bland

Residential

Flat Rate	\$0.75
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Business

Flat Rate	\$2.27
Flat Key Trunk Service	\$3.41

(9) Community of Interest Statement

Rocky Gap is a small rural exchange located in Bland County in southwest Virginia with approximately 1,850 lines. The Rocky Gap Exchange is a part of the Bluefield, West Virginia Independent Market Area. The Bland Exchange is located to the south of Rocky Gap in Bland County and serves approximately 1,875 customers. Bland is located in the Bristol-Johnson City, Tennessee Independent Market Area. Community of Interest is from both exchanges as indicated from the poll results reflecting 68.5% of Rocky Gap respondents voting in favor of the proposed ELCS calling route and 65.8% of the Bland respondents voting in favor of the proposed route. However, Community of Interest is of particular interest to the Rocky Gap subscribers with the interest being governmental, medical, employment and retail/commercial. The county seat of Bland County is located in the Bland Exchange and with the implementation of ELCS, the Rocky Gap subscribers will be able to call toll free concerning all county governmental and school administration matters. The Bland County Medical Clinic as well as one practicing physician not associated with the clinic is located in the Bland Exchange. Employment opportunities are greater in Bland than in Rocky Gap. Major employers include the county government, the Bland State Correctional Facility and two large companies, GIV, a pharmaceutical distributor and ABB Power, a transformer manufacturer. Larger retail shopping and commercial opportunities are available in Bland for the Rocky Gap subscribers. Also, Rocky Gap does not have a bank nor insurance company and many of the Rocky Gap subscribers use those commercial establishments located in Bland. In summary, ELCS will enhance local communications between Rocky Gap and the nearby governmental, medical, employment and retail/commercial center of Bland in Bland County.

(10) Maps

Maps are attached for the Rocky Gap and Bland Exchanges.

(11) Other Pertinent Information

Chronology

On April 18, 2005, Verizon South's Rocky Gap Exchange subscribers petitioned the Virginia State Corporation Commission for Expanded Local Calling Service (ELCS) to United Telephone - Southeast Inc.'s Bland Exchange. The Commission directed Verizon South to determine the change in monthly rates to provide ELCS from Rocky Gap to Bland. Verizon South surveyed all of its Rocky Gap subscribers regarding their willingness to pay the additional rates as outlined in (8) above. Sixty-eight percent of the subscribers responding voted favorably. Similarly, United Telephone-Southeast polled their Bland customers, and evidence placed in the record of the state proceeding indicated that 65% voted favorably.

Chronology (Continued)

The survey results met the requirements for implementation of ELCS as outlined in Section 56-484.2 of the Virginia State Code.

On February 13, 2006, the Virginia State Corporation Commission issued a Final Order approving Expanded Local Calling Service between Rocky Gap and Bland.

Virginia State Code, Section 56-484.2

This section of the Virginia State Code allows customers to petition the State Corporation Commission for ELCS. A copy of this section is attached.

Attachments

Virginia State Corporation Commission Final Order in Case No. PUC-2005-00054 dated February 13, 2006.

Virginia State Corporation Commission Division of Communications Staff Report of Larry Kubrock dated January 17, 2006.

Maps of the Rocky Gap and Bland Rate Exchanges

Virginia LATA Map

Virginia State Code, Section 56-484.2

Virginia State Corporation Commission Final Order

Case No. PUC-2005-00054

February 13, 2006

AT RICHMOND, FEBRUARY 13, 2006

PETITIONS OF

UNITED TELEPHONE - SOUTHEAST, INC.
BLAND EXCHANGE CUSTOMERS

CASE NO. PUC-2005-00054

AND

VERIZON SOUTH INC.
ROCKY GAP EXCHANGE CUSTOMERSFor Extended Local Service between
United Telephone's Bland Exchange and
Verizon South's Rocky Gap Exchange

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FINAL ORDER

On April 21, 2005, the Bland County Economic Development Authority filed with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") valid petitions from telephone customers in United Telephone - Southeast, Inc.'s ("United") Bland Exchange and Verizon South Inc.'s ("Verizon South") Rocky Gap Exchange, requesting extended local service ("ELS") between the two exchanges, pursuant to the provisions of § 56-484.2 of the Code of Virginia.

On June 23, 2005, the Commission issued an Order directing United and Verizon South to prepare cost studies and to poll, if necessary, the customers of the Bland and Rocky Gap exchanges to determine whether a majority of those customers would be willing to pay an increase in rates for local calling to the additional exchange. The Order further directed United and Verizon South to file the results of its polls with the Commission no later than January 13, 2006.

United submitted its cost study to the Commission Staff on September 2, 2005, and filed the results of its poll on December 21, 2005. United noted that 1,879 ballots were mailed on November 1, 2005, to its Bland Exchange customers and that 488 (26 percent) were returned. Of

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those returned 321 (65.7 percent) voted "yes," and 167 (34 percent) voted "no." Verizon South submitted the results of its cost study on September 29, 2005, and submitted the results of its poll on December 12, 2005. Verizon South noted that 946 ballots were mailed to its Rocky Gap Exchange customers. Of those returned 224 (68.5 percent) voted "yes," and 103 (31.5 percent) voted "no."

The Staff filed a Report on January 17, 2006, which stated that the poll results met the requirements of § 56-484.2 of the Code for passage. The Staff recommended that the Commission approve ELS between United's Bland Exchange and Verizon South's Rocky Gap Exchange.

NOW THE COMMISSION, having considered this matter and applicable law, is of the opinion and finds that because a majority of the customers responding voted for ELS between the Bland and Rocky Gap exchanges, the petition should be approved. As Verizon South is required to obtain a waiver from the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") before it may implement interlata ELS, Verizon South will be so directed to obtain such waiver. Upon receipt of waiver from the FCC by Verizon South, Verizon South and United shall implement local service between the Rocky Gap and Bland exchanges.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

- (1) The proposed extension of local service between Verizon South's Rocky Gap Exchange and United's Bland Exchange shall be implemented.
- (2) Verizon South is directed to file an application and obtain a waiver from the FCC in order to implement interlata ELS from its Rocky Gap Exchange to United's Bland Exchange.
- (3) United and Verizon South shall file the tariff revisions necessary for the proposed ELS and coordinate the implementation of ELS between the two exchanges.

(4) Verizon South shall file with the Commission notice of receipt of the FCC's waiver permitting implementation of the proposed interlata ELS.

(5) Verizon South and United shall each file with the Commission notice of the successful implementation of ELS between the two exchanges.

(6) This matter is continued pending further order of the Commission.

AN ATTESTED COPY hereof shall be sent by the Clerk of the Commission to:

Lydia R. Pulley, Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary, Verizon South Inc., 600 East Main Street, Suite 1100, Richmond, Virginia 23219-2441; Craig D. Dingwall, Esquire, Sprint Nextel Corporation, 401 9th Street, N.W., Suite 400, Washington, D.C. 20004; Edward Phillips, Attorney, Sprint, Legal Department, Mail Stop: NCWKFR0313, 14111 Capital Boulevard, Wake Forest, North Carolina 27587-5900; David Dillow, County of Bland, Economic Development Authority, P.O. 125, Bland, Virginia 24315; C. Meade Browder, Jr., Senior Assistant Attorney General, Division of Consumer Counsel, Office of Attorney General, 900 East Main Street, 2nd Floor, Richmond, Virginia 23219; and the Commission's Office of General Counsel and Divisions of Communications, Public Utility Accounting, and Economics and Finance.



**Virginia State Corporation Commission
Division of Communications Staff Report
January 17, 2006**

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

REPORT OF
LARRY KUBROCK
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS

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DOCUMENT CONTROL

CASE NO. PUC-2005-00054

**PETITIONS OF UNITED TELEPHONE - SOUTHEAST, INC.
BLAND EXCHANGE CUSTOMERS AND VERIZON SOUTH INC.
ROCKY GAP EXCHANGE CUSTOMERS FOR EXTENDED LOCAL
SERVICE BETWEEN UNITED TELEPHONE'S BLAND
EXCHANGE AND VERIZON SOUTH'S ROCKY GAP EXCHANGE**

January 17, 2006

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**PETITIONS OF UNITED TELEPHONE – SOUTHEAST, INC. BLAND
EXCHANGE CUSTOMERS AND VERIZON SOUTH INC. ROCKY GAP
EXCHANGE CUSTOMERS FOR EXTENDED LOCAL SERVICE BETWEEN
UNITED TELEPHONE'S BLAND EXCHANGE AND VERIZON SOUTH'S
ROCKY GAP EXCHANGE**

CASE NO. PUC-2005-00054

BACKGROUND

On April 21, 2005, the Bland County Economic Development Authority filed with the State Corporation Commission (“Commission”) petitions from telephone customers in both the United Telephone – Southeast, Inc.’s (“United”) Bland Exchange and Verizon South Inc.’s (“Verizon South”) Rocky Gap Exchange, requesting extended local service (“ELS”) between the two exchanges.

On June 23, 2005, the Commission issued an Order directing United and Verizon South to prepare cost studies to estimate the approximate change in the monthly rate for service that would result from the requested extension of local service. Verizon South and United were also directed to poll customers regarding their willingness to pay higher rates for the local calling area extension.

United submitted the results of its cost study to the Commission staff on September 2, 2005, and submitted the results of its poll on December 21, 2005.

Verizon South submitted the results of its cost study to the Commission Staff on October 11, 2005, and submitted the results of its poll on December 12, 2005.

