

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DT 18-175

**Petition of Dixville Telephone Company
For Approval to Discontinue Operations**

NOTICE OF DISCONTINUANCE

Dixville Telephone Company (“Dixville Telephone”), as petitioner in the above-referenced proceeding, hereby notifies the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (the “PUC”) and the Federal Communications Commission (“the “FCC”) of the discontinuance of Dixville Telephone’s operations, which was conditionally approved by the PUC in Order No. 26,235, issued on April 22, 2019 (the “Order”).

Background

1. On November 15, 2018, Dixville Telephone petitioned the PUC for authority under RSA § 374:22-p, VIII(a), to discontinue its local telephone operations in the State of New Hampshire.
2. On April 22, 2019, the PUC issued Order No. 26,235, an Order *Nisi* conditionally granting Dixville Telephone’s petition.
3. In the Order, the PUC imposed the following conditions on its grant of authority to Dixville Telephone to discontinue its operations:

First, Dixville must obtain from the FCC all required approvals under 47 U.S.C. § 214(a). We therefore condition Dixville’s discontinuance on receipt of all such FCC approvals and direct Dixville to notify the Commission when those approvals have been received.

Second, we find that Dixville should provide adequate notice of disconnection to each of its current customers, and we therefore direct Dixville to give each customer at least 10 days’ advance notice of disconnection, in the absence of an agreement between Dixville and any such customer with respect to a specific disconnection date for each existing service.

Third, in the interest of conserving telephone numbers in the New Hampshire 603 area code, we direct that the Dixville exchange code be returned to the NANPA [North American Numbering Plan Administrator] for assignment to another rate center in the state.

Fourth, Dixville must continue to provide service to AT&T Mobility until replacement facilities are available and operational.

Finally, we specify that the effective date of Dixville's discontinuance of operations shall be the later to occur of July 1, 2019, and the date upon which all four of the foregoing conditions have occurred.

Order, at 13-14 (footnote omitted).

Completion of Voluntary Disconnections

4. Dixville Telephone has completed voluntary disconnections of its remaining retail customers. Voluntary disconnection of the final retail customer occurred on June 21, 2019.

5. Dixville Telephone has received no new requests for telecommunications services following the voluntarily disconnection of its last retail customer.

Return of 603-255 Central Office Code to NANPA

6. On June 11, 2019, Dixville Telephone requested assignment of its 603-255 Central Office Code, for the Rate Center DIXVL NTCH (Dixville Notch), to Somos, Inc., the North American Numbering Plan Administrator ("NANPA").

7. Dixville Telephone's request was to return a "clean" code, with no contaminated blocks, to the NANPA, as contemplated by the PUC in its Order. *See* Order, at 6.

8. The NANPA approved Dixville Telephone's assignment request on June 13, 2019, with an effective date of August 31, 2019.

Transition of Service for AT&T Mobility

9. Dixville Telephone has discontinued wholesale service over its T-1 circuits to AT&T Mobility as of December 26, 2019. Using the T-1 circuits, Dixville Telephone had been providing wireless backhaul service from AT&T Mobility to a meet-point at the boundary

between the Dixville Notch exchange and the Colebrook exchange served by Consolidated Communications.

10. In August 2019, Dixville Telephone contracted with Bretton Woods Telephone Company, Inc. (“BWTC”) to construct an underground conduit containing a fiber-optic cable between the Dixville Notch exchange boundary and the AT&T Mobility cell tower in Dixville Notch. Upon completion of the construction in September 2019, AT&T Mobility reimbursed Dixville Telephone in full for the construction costs.

11. Under a Dark Fiber Agreement entered into as of October 30, 2019, between Dixville Telephone and FirstLight Fiber, Inc. (“FirstLight”), FirstLight agreed to provide fiber backhaul for the wireless traffic from the AT&T Mobility cell tower.

12. On November 5, 2019, Dixville Telephone assigned its rights, duties, and obligations under the FirstLight agreement to Bretton Woods Telephone Company, Inc. (“BWTC”).

13. BWTC “lit” the new fiber service between AT&T Mobility and FirstLight on November 22, 2019, at which time FirstLight began providing wireless backhaul services to AT&T Mobility.

14. AT&T communicated its acceptance of the new fiber service to FirstLight on November 22, 2019.

15. Following an agreed-upon 30-day period of testing of the new fiber service, AT&T Mobility requested voluntary disconnection of the T-1 circuits on December 18, 2019, effective on December 26, 2019.

No FCC Discontinuance Approval Required

16. Dixville Telephone does not require approval from the FCC prior to discontinuing its telecommunications services.

17. Under 47 C.F.R. § 63.71(g), “a carrier is not required to file an application to discontinue, reduce, or impair a service for which the requesting carrier has had no customers or

reasonable requests for service during the 30-day period immediately preceding the discontinuance.”

18. Dixville Telephone has had no customers and has had no reasonable requests for service during the 30-day period immediately preceding the discontinuance of its services.

19. Dixville Telephone, by the undersigned legal counsel, has had ongoing discussions with Rodney McDonald, Assistant Division Chief at the FCC’s Competition Policy Division, to confirm the applicability of the Section 63.71(g) of the FCC’s rule in this circumstance.

20. Mr. McDonald is available to discuss the applicability of the FCC’s rule to Dixville Telephone with the Commission and its staff. His direct telephone number is (202) 418-7513 and his email address is Rodney.McDonald@fcc.gov.

Conclusion

21. Dixville Telephone has satisfied the four conditions for discontinuance set by the PUC in its Order.

22. Dixville Telephone formally discontinued its operations in New Hampshire as of 12:01 o’clock a.m. Eastern Standard Time on December 27, 2019.

DATED at Manchester, New Hampshire, this 27th day of December, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

DIXVILLE TELEPHONE COMPANY,
A Division of Tillotson Corporation

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