

DT 00-237

**METRO TELECONNECT COMPANIES, INC.**

**Petition for Authority to Provide  
Local Telecommunications Services**

**Order Nisi Granting Authorization**

**O R D E R    N O.    23,731**

**June 21, 2001**

On October 20, 2000, Metro Teleconnect Companies, Inc. (MTC) filed with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission) a petition for authority to provide switched and non-switched local exchange telecommunications services, pursuant to the policy goals set by the New Hampshire Legislature in RSA 374:22-g, effective July 23, 1995.

Pursuant to Puc Chapter 1300, an applicant's petition for certification as a Competitive Local Exchange Carrier (CLEC) shall be granted when the Commission finds that (1) all information listed in Puc 1304.02 has been provided to the Commission; (2) the applicant meets standards for financial resources, managerial qualifications, and technical competence; and, (3) certification for the particular geographic area requested is in the public good.

The Commission Staff (Staff) has reviewed MTC's petition for compliance with these standards. Staff reports

that the company has provided all the information required by Puc 1304.02 and that the information provided supports MTC's assertion of financial resources, managerial qualifications, and technical competence sufficient to meet the standards set out in Puc 1304.01(b), (e), (f), and (g). Staff further reports that adding MTC to the choices available to New Hampshire telecommunications consumers appears to be in the public interest.

We find that MTC has satisfied the requirements of Puc 1304.01(a)(1) and (2) and, further, that authorization is in the public good, thus meeting the requirement of Puc 1304.01(a)(3). In making this finding, as directed by RSA 374:22-g, we have considered the interests of competition, fairness, economic efficiency, universal service, carrier of last resort, the incumbent's opportunity to realize a reasonable return on its investment, and recovery by the incumbent of expenses incurred. This finding is in accord with the goals of the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (TAct). Because MTC has satisfied the requirements of Puc 1304.01(a), we will grant the petition.

As part of its petition, MTC avers it will charge access rates no higher than by Verizon New Hampshire's present and future rates for intraLATA switched access. At any point

MTC seeks to exceed Verizon New Hampshire's access rates, it shall first seek Commission review. The Commission will monitor access rates as the intraLATA toll and local exchange markets develop, in order to avoid any inhibition of intraLATA toll competition in contravention of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

We note that as new competitors enter the market, greater pressure is put on the 603 area code, so long as today's antiquated number assignment process remains in effect. Accordingly, we will require that MTC request and use numbers responsibly and conservatively, and to join in exploring alternative mechanisms to use existing numbers as efficiently as possible. As evidenced by our recent orders, we have serious concern for the maintenance and variability of the 603 area code and the North American Numbering Plan as a whole. In approving this petition, we require MTC to comply with our orders on number resource optimization, including but not limited to Order No. 23,385 issued January 7, 2000 and Order No. 23,392 issued January 27, 2000.

**Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby**

**ORDERED NISI**, that MTC's petition for authority to provide switched and non-switched intrastate local exchange telecommunications services in the service territory of

Verizon New Hampshire, is hereby GRANTED, subject to all relevant Commission rules and orders; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED,** that no less than ten days prior to commencing service, MTC shall file with the Commission a rate schedule including the name, description and price of each service, in accordance with N.H. Admin. Rules, Puc 1304.03(b); and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED,** that MTC shall cause a copy of this Order Nisi to be published once in a statewide newspaper of general circulation, such publication to be no later than June 28, 2001 and to be documented by affidavit filed with this office on or before July 5, 2001; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED,** that all persons interested in responding to this Order Nisi shall submit their comments or file a written request for a hearing on this matter before the Commission no later than July 9, 2001; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED,** that this Order Nisi shall be effective July 19, 2001, unless the Commission provides otherwise in a supplemental order issued prior to the effective date.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New  
Hampshire this twenty-first day of June, 2001.

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Douglas L. Patch  
Chairman

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Susan S. Geiger  
Commissioner

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Nancy Brockway  
Commissioner

Attested by:

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Thomas B. Getz  
Executive Director and Secretary