

STATE OF MICHIGAN

BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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In the matter of the application of)	
BLANCHARD TELEPHONE CO. for the issuance)	
of a permanent license to provide basic local)	Case No. U-15226
exchange service and for related authorizations.)	
_____)	

At the June 26, 2007 meeting of the Michigan Public Service Commission in Lansing, Michigan.

PRESENT: Hon. J. Peter Lark, Chairman
Hon. Monica Martinez, Commissioner

OPINION AND ORDER

On February 22, 2007, Blanchard Telephone Co. (Blanchard) filed an application, pursuant to the Michigan Telecommunications Act (MTA), MCL 484.2101 *et seq.*, for a license to provide basic local exchange service in the Blanchard exchange and the east 1/2 of Sections 18 and 19, and all of Section 20 in Millbrook Township, Mecosta County, currently served by Verizon North Inc. It also requested a temporary license, which was granted by the Commission on May 22, 2007.

At a hearing on June 7, 2007, Blanchard presented the testimony and exhibits of Duane A. Bronson, its General Manager. At the close of the hearing, the parties waived compliance with the provisions of Section 81 of the Michigan Administrative Procedures Act, MCL 24.281.

After a review of the application and testimony, the Commission finds that approval of the application is in the public interest. On numerous occasions, the Commission has found that competition can be advantageous to the citizens of this state. Approval of the request for a license

to provide basic local exchange service will expand the opportunities for competition. Accordingly, the application should be approved. The grant of a license is conditioned on full compliance with the provisions of the MTA, as well as the anti-slamming procedures adopted in Case No. U-11900 and the number reclamation process adopted in Case No. U-12703. Failure to comply fully may result in revocation of the license or other penalties. Further, the grant of a license is conditioned upon the provision of service to customers within a reasonable time. Failure to do so may result in revocation of the license. Finally, the Commission notes that any numbers obtained by the applicant are a public resource and are not owned by the applicant. Consequently, if the applicant fails to provide service or goes out of business, any numbers assigned to it are subject to reclamation.

The Commission FINDS that:

- a. Jurisdiction is pursuant to 1991 PA 179, as amended, MCL 484.2101 *et seq.*; 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 *et seq.*; and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, as amended, 1999 AC, R 460.17101 *et seq.*
- b. Blanchard possesses sufficient technical, financial, and managerial resources and abilities to provide basic local exchange service to all residential and commercial customers within the geographic area of the license and intends to provide service within one year from the date of this order.
- c. Granting Blanchard a license to provide basic local exchange service in the requested areas will not be contrary to the public interest.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

A. Blanchard Telephone Co. is granted a license to provide basic local exchange service in the Blanchard exchange and the east ½ of Sections 18 and 19, and all of Section 20 in Millbrook Township, Mecosta County, currently served by Verizon North Inc.

B. Blanchard Telephone Co. shall provide basic local exchange service in accordance with the regulatory requirements specified in the Michigan Telecommunications Act, MCL 484.2101 *et seq.*, including the number portability provisions of Section 358, the anti-slamming procedures adopted in Case No. U-11900, and the number reclamation process adopted in Case No. U-12703.

C. Before commencing basic local exchange service, Blanchard Telephone Co. shall submit its tariff reflecting the services that it will offer and identifying the exchanges in which it will offer service.

The Commission reserves jurisdiction and may issue further orders as necessary.

Any party desiring to appeal this order must do so by the filing of a claim of appeal in the Michigan Court of Appeals within 30 days of the issuance of this order, pursuant to MCL 484.2203(12).

MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

/s/ J. Peter Lark

Chairman

(S E A L)

/s/ Monica Martinez

Commissioner

By its action of June 26, 2007.

/s/ Mary Jo Kunkle

Its Executive Secretary

Any party desiring to appeal this order must do so by the filing of a claim of appeal in the Michigan Court of Appeals within 30 days of the issuance of this order, pursuant to MCL 484.2203(12).

MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Chairman

Commissioner

By its action of June 26, 2007.

Its Executive Secretary