



CenturyLink™

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APR 25 2018
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
TRENTON, NJ

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April 24, 2018

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CASE MANAGEMENT

APR 25 2018

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
TRENTON, NJ

VIA OVERNIGHT MAIL

Irene Kim Asbury, Secretary
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor
Trenton, NJ 08625

TO 18040458

Re: I/M/O Joint Petition of United Telephone Company of New Jersey, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink and Bluebird Communications, LLC. for Approval of a Interconnection Agreement - BPU Docket No.

Dear Secretary Asbury:

Enclosed for filing please find an original and ten (10) copies of the Joint Petition of United Telephone Company of New Jersey, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink and Bluebird Communications, LLC for approval of a Interconnection Agreement. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Sue Benedek

ZEB/jh
enclosures

cc: Peter Batchelor (via electronic mail)(on behalf of Bluebird Communications, LLC)
Carole Artale, Esquire (via electronic mail)
Stefanie Brand, Director (via electronic mail)

Cms
C. Artale
DAG
RPA
J. Figueiredo
H. Bond
TELEC (3)
L. GILBERT

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

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MAIL ROOM

APR 25 2018

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
: TRENTON, NJ

I/M/O JOINT PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF A
INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN UNITED : BPU DOCKET NO.
TELEPHONE COMPANY OF NEW JERSEY, INC. D/B/A :
CENTURYLINK AND BLUEBIRD COMMUNICATIONS, LLC :
:

JOINT PETITION OF
UNITED TELEPHONE COMPANY OF NEW JERSEY, INC. D/B/A CENTURYLINK

Pursuant to Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the "1996 Act"),¹ United Telephone Company of New Jersey, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink ("CenturyLink"), respectfully files the attached Interconnection Agreement ("Agreement") between CenturyLink and Bluebird Communications, LLC ("Bluebird"). CenturyLink and Bluebird request that the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") approve the attached Agreement. In support, CenturyLink in conjunction with Bluebird, states as follows:

THE PARTIES

1. CenturyLink is an Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier ("ILEC") authorized to provide local exchange telephone services in portions of the State of New Jersey.
2. Bluebird is a CLEC in the State of New Jersey.
3. Bluebird has entered into the underlying Agreement with CenturyLink for the exchanging of traffic in the State of New Jersey. A copy of the Agreement is attached hereto at Appendix A.

¹ Citations herein to the 1996 Act should be construed as references to sections of the Communications Act of 1934 as amended by the 1996 Act.

THE AGREEMENT

4. CenturyLink and Bluebird have entered into the Agreement pursuant to Sections 251(b), (c) and 252(a) of the 1996 Act.

5. The Agreement sets forth the rates, terms and conditions for the establishment of rates, terms and conditions for interconnection of Bluebird and CenturyLink's local exchange networks for purposes of transmission and termination of local traffic set forth in the Act and the attached Agreement. The Agreement is an integrated package that reflects a negotiated balance of many interests and concerns critical to both parties.

6. The attached Agreement is effective upon Commission approval or in accordance with the Board's rules, regulations and orders.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE 1996 ACT

7. The Agreement satisfies the requirements for Board approval pursuant to Section 252(e)(2)(A) of the 1996 Act, which provides as follows:

"The State commission may only reject...an agreement (or any portion thereof) adopted by negotiation under subsection (a) if it finds that--

- (i) the agreement (or portion thereof) discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement; or
- (ii) the implementation of such agreement or portion is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity[.]"

8. First, the Agreement does not discriminate against any other telecommunications carrier, as required by Section 252(e)(2)(A)(i).

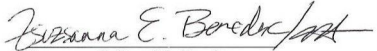
9. Second, the Agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity, as required by Section 252(e)(2)(A)(ii).

APPROVAL OF THE AGREEMENT

10. CenturyLink, in conjunction with Bluebird, respectfully requests that the Board approve this Petition and the attached Agreement to the extent Board approval is required.

WHEREFORE, CenturyLink, with the concurrence of Agreement, respectfully requests that the Board approve the attached Agreement pursuant to Section 252(e) of the 1996 Act.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: April 24, 2018