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DOCKET # 27881
DOCUMENT # 114298

**INTERIM CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO
PROVIDE COMPETITIVE LOCAL EXCHANGE
TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES**

IN RE: **DOCKET NO 27881** -- Application of Southern Light, LLC for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Competitive Local Exchange Services.

Certificate No. L-0454

Approved: September 2, 2008

Issued:

9/8/08

BY THE COMMISSION:

**I.
BACKGROUND**

On July 7, 2008, Southern Light, LLC (hereinafter referred to as "the Applicant" or "Southern Light") filed with the Georgia Public Service Commission (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission") an application for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Competitive Local Exchange Services pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 46-5-163(b). In Administrative Session on September 2, 2008, the Commission voted to waive a public hearing on this matter.

The statutory authority governing certificates of authority of the type the Applicant is seeking is found at O.C.G.A. § 46-5-163. This code section provides that a telecommunications company including a telecommunications services reseller shall not provide telecommunications services without a certificate of authority issued by the Commission. A certificate may not be issued without adequate proof that the applicant possesses satisfactory financial and technical capability. A showing of public convenience and necessity is not a condition for issuing a competing certificate of authority.

In support of its application, Southern Light presented evidence through exhibits and additional materials routinely requested by the Commission Staff. After carefully analyzing all evidence of the record in this case, the Commission makes the following findings of fact and conclusions of law:

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II.
FINDINGS OF FACT

1. TECHNICAL CAPABILITY.

The Applicant intends to offer local exchange telecommunications services to business customers in Georgia. Applicant has demonstrated adequate technical capabilities to implement its business plan through evidence regarding its management team, technical understanding and customer service plans.

2. FINANCIAL CAPABILITY.

The Applicant has demonstrated that it possesses sufficient and adequate financial capability to provide the local exchange telecommunications services for which it is seeking a Certificate of Authority.

III.
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Commission Staff certifies the record in this docket to the Commission and issues this recommendation pursuant to O.C.G.A. §§ 46-2-58(d) and 50-13-17(a). Based upon the evidence, the Commission Staff finds that the Applicant has shown that it possesses satisfactory financial and technical capability pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 46-5-163(h) in order to be granted an interim certificate, consistent with the Commission's guidelines in Docket No. 5778-U for the issuance of interim certificates of authority for the provision of local exchange telecommunication service.

Having reviewed the record and considered this case, the Commission finds and concludes that it should adopt the Commission Staff's recommendation as its decision in this docket.

WHEREFORE, it is

ORDERED, that the above numbered certificate is granted to Southern Light, LLC, whose principal business address is 156 Saint Anthony Street, Mobile, Alabama 36603, to resell and provide facilities-based competitive local exchange telecommunication services.

ORDERED FURTHER, that the Applicant is hereby granted authority to provide local exchange telecommunications services in the BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. d/b/a AT&T Georgia exchanges set forth below:

Acworth	Covington	Lawrenceville	Sardis
Adairsville	Cumming	Leary	Savannah
Albany	Cusseta	Leesburg	Senoia
Alpharetta	Dallas	Lithonia	Smithville
Americus	Douglasville	Loganville	Smyrna
Appling	Dublin	Louisville	Social Circle
Arlington	Duluth	Lula	Sparks
Athens	Eastman	Lumber City	Sparta
Atlanta	Eatonton	Lumpkin	Stockbridge
Augusta	Elberton	Luthersville	Stone Mountain
Austell	Fairburn	Lyons	Swainsboro
Baconton	Fayetteville	Macon	Sylvester
Bainbridge	Flowery Branch	Madison	Tallapoosa
Barnesville	Forsyth	Marietta	Temple
Baxley	Fort Valley	McCaysville	Tennega
Blackshear	Franklin	McDonough	Thomasville
Bogart-Statham	Gainesville	Millen	Thomson
Bowdon	Gay	Monticello	Tifton
Bremen	Gibson	Newnan	Tucker
Brunswick	Grantville	Norcross	Tybee Island
Buchanan	Greensboro	Palmetto	Valdosta
Buford	Greenville	Panola	Vidalia
Calhoun	Griffin	Pelham	Villa Rica
Camilla	Hamilton	Pine Mountain	Wadley
Carrollton	Hampton	Pooler	Warner Robins
Cartersville	Harlem	Powder Springs	Warrenton
Cave Spring	Hazelhurst	Richland	Watkinsville
Cedartown	Hephzibah	Rockmart	Waycross
Chamblee	Hogansville	Rome	Waynesboro
Claxton	Jackson	Roopville	Woodbury
Clermont	Jekyll Island	Rossville	Woodstock
Cochran	Jesup	Roswell	Wrens
Colquitt	Johnson Corner	Royston	Wrightsville
Columbus	Jonesboro	Rutledge	Zebulon
Concord	Kingston	St. Simons Island	
Conyers	LaGrange	Sandersville-	
Cordele	Lake Park	Tennille	

ORDERED FURTHER, that as a condition precedent to the Applicant offering local service in any of the requested exchanges, the Applicant must enter into an interconnection agreement with each affected incumbent local exchange company and obtain the formal approval of the Georgia Public Service Commission after said agreement is filed with the agency.

ORDERED FURTHER, that the Applicant's tariff is hereby approved.

ORDERED FURTHER, that the interim certificate is issued subject to the conditions adopted by the Commission in Docket No. 5778-U and subject to all other applicable requirements and rules of the Commission, including, but not limited to:

Quarterly Filing Requirements:

- 1) the number of new and total customers, categorized by customer class and types of service;
- 2) the number, nature and resolution of any complaints, categorized by customer class (and, if applicable, by types of service);
- 3) the number of employees dedicated in Georgia to the local service, categorized by type (e.g., customer service, sales, maintenance, etc.); and
- 4) An explanation of whether the services are being made available through resale or through use of the company's own facilities.

ORDERED FURTHER, that the Applicant must comply with O.C.G.A. § 25-9-1 *et seq.* regarding the practices and procedures that shall be employed when a telecommunications provider or its designee is excavating in the state of Georgia.

ORDERED FURTHER, that the Applicant shall be responsible for ensuring its employees, agents or designees comply fully with all applicable laws, rules and orders of the Commission relating to safe excavation procedures, including, but not limited to O.C.G.A. § 25-9-1 *et seq.*, the Georgia Utility Facility Protection Act. Violations of such laws, rules, or orders of the Commission by the Applicant's employees, agents or designees may result in revocation, suspension or other limitation on the Applicant's certificate of authority and may result in fines assessed on Applicant pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 46-2-91.

ORDERED FURTHER, that the Applicant must comply with the Commission's Order or Orders issued in Docket No. 11400-U, Prevention of Damage To Underground Facilities, and applicable law pertaining to Common Ground best practices for excavation damage prevention when excavating in an area in which underground facilities may be located.

ORDERED FURTHER, that the Applicant shall contribute to the Universal Access Fund as prescribed in Docket No. 5825-U.

ORDERED FURTHER, that pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 46-5-168(b)(2) the certificate granted herein shall be subject to revocation if the Applicant fails to notify the Commission of any change in its contact address on file with the Commission, fails to comply with Commission requirements or Orders, or violates any applicable law or Commission Rule.

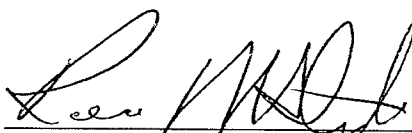
ORDERED FURTHER, that if the Applicant desires to do business in Georgia under any name which does not appear on this certificate, Applicant shall submit an application for amendment to its certification stating the name under which it plans to conduct business.

ORDERED FURTHER, that all statements of fact, law and regulatory policy contained within the preceding sections of this Order be adopted as findings and conclusions of law and conclusions of regulatory policy of the Commission.

ORDERED FURTHER, that jurisdiction over this matter is expressly retained for the purpose of entering such further Order or Orders as this Commission may deem just and proper.

ORDERED FURTHER, that any motion for reconsideration or rehearing in this case shall not have the effect of staying this Order of Commission, except insofar as the Commission may otherwise provide.

BY ORDER OF THE GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, this 2nd day of September 2008.



Reece McAlister
Executive Secretary

DATE: 9-8-08

RM/CE/TS



Chuck Eaton
Chairman

DATE: 9/8/08