

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

January 7, 2013

IN RE:

**PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF THE
INTERCONNECTION AND TRAFFIC
INTERCHANGE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
CITIZENS TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY
OF THE VOLUNTEER STATE LLC AND SPRINT
SPECTRUM L.P.**

**DOCKET NO.
12-00135**

**ORDER APPROVING THE INTERCONNECTION
AND TRAFFIC INTERCHANGE AGREEMENT**

This matter came before Vice Chairman Herbert H. Hilliard, Director Sara Kyle and Director David F. Jones of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the “Authority” or “TRA”), the voting panel assigned to this docket, at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on December 17, 2012. Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252, the Directors considered approval of the Interconnection and Traffic Interchange Agreement (the “Agreement”) negotiated between Citizens Telecommunications Company of the Volunteer State LLC (“Citizens”) and Sprint Spectrum L.P. filed on November 5, 2012 and supplemented on December 5, 2012.

Based upon a review of the Agreement, the record in this matter, and the standards for review set forth in 47 U.S.C. § 252, the Directors unanimously granted approval of the Agreement and made the following findings and conclusions:

1) The Authority has jurisdiction over public utilities pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-104 (2004) and over interconnections between telecommunications service providers pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-124(a) and (b) (2004).

2) The Agreement is in the public interest as it provides consumers within Citizen’s service area with alternative sources of telecommunications services.

3) The Agreement does not discriminate against telecommunications service providers that are not parties thereto.

4) 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2)(A) provides that a state commission may reject a negotiated agreement only upon finding that it “discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement” or if the implementation of the agreement “is not consistent with the public interest, convenience or necessity.” Unlike arbitrated agreements, a state commission may not reject a negotiated agreement on the grounds that the agreement fails to meet the requirements of 47 U.S.C. § 251 or § 252(d).¹ Thus, although the Authority finds that neither ground for rejection of a negotiated agreement exists, this Order should not be construed as finding that the Agreement is consistent with § 251, § 252(d) or, for that matter, previous Authority decisions.

5) No person or entity has sought to intervene in this docket.

6) The Agreement is reviewable by the Authority pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252 and Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 65-4-104 (2004) and 65-4-124(a) and (b) (2004) or, in the alternative, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-5-109(m) (2009).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

The Interconnection and Traffic Interchange Agreement negotiated between Citizens Telecommunications Company of the Volunteer State LLC and Sprint Spectrum L.P. is approved and is subject to review by the Authority as provided herein.

Vice Chairman Herbert H. Hilliard, Director Sara Kyle and Director David F. Jones concur.

ATTEST:



Earl R. Taylor, Executive Director

¹ See 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2)(B).