

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

July 29, 2019

IN RE:

**APPLICATION OF TALK AMERICA
SERVICES, LLC FOR AMENDED
AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE FACILITIES-
BASED LOCAL EXCHANGE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES**

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**DOCKET NO.
15-00098**

**Cancellation Request Co. ID:
129163**

**ORDER GRANTING CANCELLATION OF AUTHORITY
TO PROVIDE FACILITIES-BASED LOCAL EXCHANGE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES**

This matter came before Chair Robin L. Morrison, Vice Chair Kenneth C. Hill, and Commissioner David F. Jones of the Tennessee Public Utility Commission (the "Commission" or "TPUC"), the voting panel assigned to this docket, during a regularly scheduled Commission Conference held on July 15, 2019. Talk America Services, LLC ("Talk America" or the "Company") was granted authority to provide competing local telecommunications services by the Tennessee Public Utility Commission ("Commission"), on December 18, 2015 in Docket No. 15-00098. A final order was issued on December 23, 2015.¹

On June 14, 2019, the Commission received a notice of voluntary relinquishment and request for cancellation of authority from Talk America. The notice requested cancellation of the authority of Talk America to provide facilities-based local exchange and resold local and interexchange services granted in Docket No. 14-00120 and 15-00098, effective as soon as possible. A copy of the Application to Discontinue Services submitted to the FCC and the customer notification letters were included with the cancellation request. The states within which

¹ Talk America Services, LLC was also granted local and long distance resale authority in Docket No. 14-00120. Cancellation of its resale authority will be addressed in that docket.

customers would be affected by the discontinuance were listed as Kentucky, Oklahoma, Oregon and Tennessee.

Both the Application to Discontinue Services to the FCC and the customer notification letter indicated Talk America Services would be discontinuing services on or about June 1, 2019. At the time of filing, Talk America Services had no local exchange customers and 22 long-distance customers in Tennessee. The customer notification emphasized the need for long-distance customers to find another carrier prior to that date. The FCC notice further explained that the reason for discontinuance was due to Talk America Services having a very small customer base in the affected states and further growth in its customer base was not anticipated, making it economically unviable to continue to offer services in the affected states. In response to a Commission inquiry, in correspondence dated July 2, 2019, AT&T Tennessee stated it is not providing any resold lines or facilities to Talk America Services, LLC at this time.

Based upon careful consideration of the entire record in this matter, the Commissioners voted unanimously to grant the Company's request to cancel its authority.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Chair Robin L. Morrison, Vice Chair Kenneth C. Hill, and Commissioner David F. Jones concur.

ATTEST:



Earl R. Taylor, Executive Director