

In the Matter Of:

In Re: Stand Up Wireless - Petition to Amend its ETC Designation

HEARING, DOCKET NO. 19-2432-01

September 24, 2019

Job Number: 575016

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

Petition of Global)
Connection Inc. of America) Docket No. 19-2432-01
d/b/a Stand Up Wireless)
to amend its Designation) Hearing
as an Eligible)
Telecommunications Carrier) in the State of Utah to)
Participate in the Utah)
Universal Service Fund)
)

September 24, 2019

10:00 a.m.

Location: Heber M. Wells Building
160 East 300 South, Room 403
Salt Lake City, Utah

Hearing Officer: Michael Hammer

Job No. 575016

Reporter: Melinda J. Andersen

Certified Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public

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A P P E A R A N C E S

For Global Connection: Lance J.M. Steinhart
(Telephonically) Heather Kirby
1725 Winward Concourse
Suite 150
Alpharetta, GA 30005
Telephone: (770)232-9200
lsteinhart@telecomcounsel.com

For the Division of Justin Jetter
Public Utilities: Attorney General's Office
160 East 300 South
Fifth Floor
Salt Lake City, UT 84114
Telephone: (801)366-0335
jjetter@agutah.gov

For the Office of Robert Moore
Consumer Services: Attorney General's Office
160 East 300 South
Fifth Floor
Salt Lake City, UT 84114
Telephone: (801)366-0335
rmoore@agutah.gov

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 HEARING OFFICER: Good morning everyone. This
3 is the time and place noticed for the hearing in Petition
4 of Global Connection Incorporated of America d/b/a Stand Up
5 Wireless to Amend its Designation as an Eligible
6 Telecommunications Carrier in the State of Utah to
7 Participate in the Utah Universal Service Fund. This is
8 Commission Docket Number 19-2432-01. My name is Michael
9 Hammer. I am the Commission's designated presiding
10 officer. Let's go ahead and take appearances please
11 beginning with the individuals we have on the phone.

12 MR. STEINHART: Good morning. This is Lance
13 Steinhart, the attorney for Global Connection Inc. of
14 America d/b/a Stand Up Wireless. Also I have Heather Kirby
15 from our office on the phone.

16 MR. SCHIMPF: This is Eric Schimpf, chief
17 operating officer of Global Connection Inc. of America.

18 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

19 MR. JETTER: Good morning. I'm Justin Jetter
20 with the Utah Attorney General's office. And I'm here
21 representing the Utah Division of Public Utilities. With
22 me at counsel table in the hearing room today is the
23 Division's witness Casey Coleman.

24 MR. MOORE: I'm Robert Moore with the AG's
25 office representing the Office of Consumer Services. With

1 me from the Office is Cheryl Murray.

2 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. We'll begin with
3 Mr. Steinhart. Mr. Steinhart, do you intend to call a
4 witness telephonically?

5 MR. STEINHART: If that's fair, yes, I do.

6 HEARING OFFICER: Well, it's up to you whether
7 you would like one of your witnesses to testify in support
8 of the stipulation and settlement agreement. Do you have
9 any desire to conduct --

10 MR. STEINHART: Yes.

11 HEARING OFFICER: -- direct examination?

12 MR. STEINHART: I do. That will be Eric
13 Schimpf.

14 HEARING OFFICER: All right. There is no
15 objection to Mr. Schimpf testifying telephonically?

16 MR. JETTER: No objection.

17 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Mr. Schimpf, do
18 you swear to tell the truth?

19 THE WITNESS: Yes.

20 HEARING OFFICER: Go ahead, Mr. Steinhart.

21 DIRECT EXAMINATION

22 BY MR. STEINHART:

23 Q. Would you please state your name and title and
24 business address for the record please?

25 A. Sure. It's Eric Schimpf, chief operation

1 officer for Global Connection Inc. of America. Our office
2 is located at 5555 Oakbrook Parkway, Suite 620, Norcross,
3 Georgia, 30093.

4 Q. Mr. Schimpf, are you familiar with the petition
5 that was filed in this docket?

6 A. I am.

7 Q. Are you also familiar with the stipulation and
8 settlement agreement that is before the Commission for
9 approval at this point?

10 A. I am.

11 Q. Is all the information contained therein true
12 and correct to the best of your knowledge?

13 A. It is.

14 Q. Can you give us a little background on Global
15 Connection please?

16 A. Global Connection is a company that's been
17 around since 1999. It's been predominantly a -- I
18 apologize. I have a little bit of an echo so it's throwing
19 me off. The company has predominantly been a wireline
20 reseller and then entered into the wireless resale laying
21 business in around 2011. The company is a lifeline service
22 provider in 29 states, including obviously Utah.

23 Q. Okay. Do you believe that approval of the
24 stipulation is in the public interest?

25 A. Yes, I do.

1 **Q. Okay.**

2 MR. STEINHART: I have no further direct
3 examination at this point. Thank you.

4 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Mr. Jetter?

5 MR. JETTER: I have no questions.

6 HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Moore?

7 MR. MOORE: The Office has no questions.

8 HEARING OFFICER: And I have none. Thank you,
9 Mr. Schimpf. Mr. Steinhart, do you wish to call any other
10 witnesses?

11 MR. STEINHART: No. Thank you.

12 HEARING OFFICER: All right. Thank you.
13 Mr. Jetter?

14 MR. JETTER: Thank you. The Division would
15 like to call and have sworn in Casey Coleman.

16 HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Coleman, do you swear to
17 tell the truth?

18 THE WITNESS: Yes.

19 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

20 DIRECT EXAMINATION

21 BY MR. JETTER:

22 **Q. Mr. Coleman, would you please state your name**
23 **and occupation for the record?**

24 A. Yes. I'm Casey J. Coleman, utility technical
25 consultant for the State of Utah, Division of Public

1 Utilities.

2 Q. Thank you. In the course of your employment
3 with the Division have you had an opportunity to review the
4 petition filed in this docket along with the testimony and
5 the stipulation and settlement agreement?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Based on your knowledge of the facts in this
8 case do you believe that approval of the stipulation and
9 settlement agreement is just, reasonable, and in the public
10 interest?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Is there anything else you would like to add to
13 the record?

14 A. Just that I don't know of have opposition to
15 the stipulation.

16 Q. Thank you.

17 MR. JETTER: I have no further questions.

18 HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Steinhart, do you have
19 any questions for Mr. Coleman?

20 MR. STEINHART: No. Thank you.

21 HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Moore?

22 MR. MOORE: No questions. Thank you.

23 HEARING OFFICER: No other witnesses,
24 Mr. Jetter?

25 MR. JETTER: No other witnesses.

1 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Mr. Moore?

2 MR. MOORE: The Office calls Cheryl Murray and
3 asks that she be sworn.

4 HEARING OFFICER: Ms. Murray, do you swear to
5 tell the truth?

6 THE WITNESS: Yes.

7 DIRECT EXAMINATION

8 BY MR. MOORE:

9 Q. Could you please state your name and
10 occupation?

11 A. My name is Cheryl Murray. I'm a utility
12 analyst with the Officer of Consumer Services.

13 Q. In your capacity with the Office have you had a
14 chance to review the application, filings of testimony, and
15 the stipulation presented in this docket?

16 A. Yes. I have reviewed all of the documents that
17 have been filed in this docket. In addition I reviewed the
18 responses from the Company to my data request and to
19 questions from a phone call with Stand Up Wireless.

20 Q. Did you participate in the discussions that led
21 to the stipulation that is before the Commission today?

22 A. Yes, I did. The Office believes that Stand Up
23 Wireless meets the requirements to qualify for Utah
24 Universal Service funds, and therefore, the Office is a
25 party to the stipulation.

1 **Q. Do you have any additional comments?**

2 A. Yes. Stand Up Wireless views its offering as
3 an enhancement over its current offering in Utah. The
4 current plan offers a thousand minutes of voice, unlimited
5 text, and 500 megabytes of data at no charge. This plan
6 does not qualify for Utah USF.

7 The plan under which Stand Up Wireless requests
8 Utah USF includes 800 minutes of voice, unlimited text, and
9 2 gigabytes of data at no charge to the customer. This
10 plan complies with state requirements and qualifies for USF
11 and Utah USF funding.

12 The current plan gives customers more voice
13 minutes, but less data. The Company indicates that if this
14 application is approved it will automatically move current
15 customers to the new enhanced data plan.

16 The Office had concerns that some customers may
17 actually prefer, or need, more minutes than data. To
18 address those concerns Stand Up Wireless has agreed that it
19 will notify customers of the changes in advance of moving
20 them to the new plan. The notification will include
21 details of the customer's current plan and details of the
22 plan they will be moved to if they do not notify Stand Up
23 Wireless that they wish to remain on their current plan.
24 Customers not responding will be moved to the new plan.

25 The Company has agreed to provide a second

1 notice after the move, again describing the differences in
2 the plans and giving customers another opportunity to move
3 back to the original plan.

4 The Office believes that these two
5 notifications will provide current customers the
6 opportunity to make an informed choice as to the plan best
7 suited to their needs.

8 In conclusion the Office believes that the
9 stipulation is just and reasonable in result and in the
10 public interest and recommends that the Commission approve
11 it.

12 MR. MOORE: Ms. Murray is available for cross
13 or questions from the Commission.

14 HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Steinhart?

15 MR. STEINHART: I have no questions for
16 Ms. Murray.

17 HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Jetter?

18 MR. JETTER: No questions. Thank you.

19 HEARING OFFICER: Ms. Murray, the compromise
20 that you discussed in your testimony concerning notice that
21 would be given to customers regarding the potential change
22 in their plan, is that fully described in the written
23 settlement document?

24 THE WITNESS: Well, you know, I believe that it
25 is, but I will have to look to find it.

1 MR. JETTER: Paragraph 9.

2 THE WITNESS: Paragraph 9, yes.

3 HEARING OFFICER: I think it is. I just wanted
4 to ensure that you weren't adding anything additional.

5 THE WITNESS: That I wasn't making it up, no.
6 Yes, it is in paragraph 9. Thank you, Mr. Jetter.

7 HEARING OFFICER: All right. I have nothing
8 else. Thank you, Ms. Murray. Is there anything else from
9 any of the parties before we adjourn?

10 MR. STEINHART: Nothing from the Company.

11 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you everyone. Have a
12 nice morning.

13 (The hearing concluded at 10:15 a.m.)

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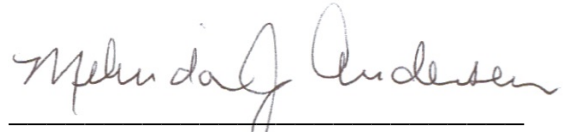
STATE OF UTAH)
:
COUNTY OF SALT LAKE)

I, Melinda J. Andersen, Certified Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public in and for the County of Salt Lake and State of Utah, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing proceedings were taken before me at the time and place herein set forth, and were taken down by me in shorthand and thereafter transcribed into typewritten under my direction and supervision:

That the foregoing 12 pages contain a true and correct transcription of my shorthand notes so taken.

WITNESS MY HAND and official seal at Salt Lake City, Utah this 11th day of October, 2019.



My Commission Expires:
February 10, 2022

Melinda J. Andersen, C.S.R.

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