BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application of ALEC, Inc., Lexington, Kentucky, seeking a Certificate of Authority to Provide Local Exchange and Interexchange Telecommunications Services in the State of Nebraska.	)	Application No. C-3967 GRANTED Entered: December 16, 2008

BY THE COMMISSION:

On September 30, 2008, an application was filed by ALEC Inc. (ALEC or Applicant) of Lexington, Kentucky, seeking authority to operate as an interexchange carrier of telecommunications services within the State of Nebraska. Notice of the application was published in The Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska, on October 2, 2008. No protests were filed; therefore, this application is processed pursuant to the Commission's rule of modified procedure.

O P I N I O N A N D F I N D I N G S

Applicant is a privately held Kentucky corporation and a wholly-owned subsidiary of SinglePipe Communications, Inc. Applicant currently provides telecommunications services in Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Ohio.

Applicant requests authority to provide facilities-based and resold telecommunications services, including data services throughout the State of Nebraska. These services would include retail local, interexchange and private line services, as well as wholesale telecommunications services and support to other telephone service providers. Applicant intends to collocate switching signaling systems and other equipment in ILEC and non-ILEC collocation facilities such as carrier hotels and lease capacity on fiber circuits from other carriers. Applicant may also resell services of other carriers. Applicant will provide access to directory assistance and operator assistance services to local exchange customers. Applicant will provide access to Emergency 911 services to local exchange customers and telecommunications relay services upon request. Applicant agrees to adhere to all applicable state laws and Commission policies, rules and orders.

Applicant states that it has extensive technical and managerial experience in the provision of telecommunications services. ALEC's senior management team (combined) has over 60 years of telecommunications and managerial experience as shown in the application.

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Applicant will rely on its parent corporation for financial resources. Under seal Applicant filed its financial statements which met the Commission's minimum criteria.

Applicant states a grant of this application will serve the public interest because Applicant's proposed services will provide an alternative choice to Nebraska consumers.

The Commission considers this application for authority in light of the following criteria and standards established in the Commission's telecommunications rules:

(a) Whether the Applicant has provided the information required by the Commission;

(b) Whether the Applicant has provided a performance bond, if required;

(c) Whether the Applicant possesses adequate financial resources to provide the proposed service;

(d) Whether the Applicant possesses adequate technical competence and resources to provide the proposed service;

(e) Whether the Applicant possesses adequate managerial competence to provide the proposed service; and

(f) Whether granting the Applicant a certificate preserves and advances universal service, protects the public safety and welfare, ensures the continued quality of telecommunications services and safeguards the rights of consumers, pursuant to Section 253(b) of the Act.

Applicant has demonstrated that it meets the standards of financial, technical, and managerial competence and all other criteria necessary to provide local exchange and interexchange services in the State of Nebraska.

These opinions and findings carry no precedential value other than establishing minimum standards and criteria to apply when considering applications to provide interexchange and local exchange services. All telecommunications carriers seeking such a certificate must demonstrate that they meet, at a minimum, the standards and criteria set forth herein.

Before the Applicant is allowed to provide local exchange service to its users, it must either:

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1. Through negotiation or arbitration, reach an interconnection/resale agreement with the pertinent incumbent local exchange carrier and receive Commission approval of the interconnection/resale agreement; or

2. In the event a certified local exchange carrier provides a wholesale tariff, purchase rates from that tariff, file its own tariff and receive Commission approval of its tariff.

This order does not terminate, waive or in any manner diminish the exemptions and protections created by the Act for rural carriers, as defined by the Act. This order does not address the issue of the rural local exchange carrier exemption under the Act. Rural exemptions may be terminated, suspended or modified only as provided in Section 251(f) of the Act.

Prior to providing service in any area in the state of Nebraska, Applicant must file tariffs in accordance with the provisions of Section 002.21 of the Neb. Admin. R. & Regs. Title 291, Ch. 5.

Upon the offering of interexchange and/or local exchange services in the State of Nebraska, Applicant would be subject to the same laws, rules and regulations, both federal and state (including any laws, rules or regulations regarding universal service, restrictions on joint marketing and quality of service), applicable to any other local exchange company except those obligations imposed on incumbent local telecommunications carriers pursuant to Section 251(c) of the Act.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Application No. C-3967 be, and hereby is, granted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Applicant is obligated to abide by the same laws, rules and regulations, both federal and state (including any laws, rules or regulations regarding universal service, restrictions on joint marketing and quality of service), applicable to any other interexchange and local exchange carriers, except obligations imposed on incumbent local exchange carriers pursuant to Section 251(c) of the Act.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, to the extent Applicant provides access line service as referenced in the Telecommunications Relay System Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-301

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through 86-315(Relay Act) and defined in Neb. Admin. R. & Reg. Title 291, Ch. 5 § 001.01B, the Applicant shall collect from its subscribers a surcharge (Relay Surcharge) pursuant to the relay act and the Commission's annual orders establishing the amount of the surcharge, and shall remit to the Commission the proceeds from the relay surcharge as provided by the Relay Act.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Applicant comply with all necessary statutes and Commission Rules and Regulations as they pertain to the Nebraska Universal Service Fund.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Applicant shall file, in accordance with the applicable statutes, on or before April 30 of each year, an annual report with the Commission consisting of: (a) a copy of any report filed with the Federal Communications Commission; (b) a copy of any annual report to stockholders; and (c) a copy of the latest Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. If such reports are unavailable, Applicant shall file a balance sheet and income statement for the previous year of operation, and for the State of Nebraska on a combined interstate-intrastate basis, the investment in the telephone plant and equipment located within the state, accumulated depreciation thereon, operating revenues, operating expenses and taxes.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that within 30 days from the entry of this order that the Applicant file a tariff and pay appropriate filing fees with the Commission as required by state statutes and the Commission's regulations.

IT IS FINALLY ORDERED that this order be, and hereby is, made the Commission's official Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to the Applicant to provide facilities-based interexchange and local exchange telecommunications services in the state of Nebraska.

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MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 16th day of December, 2008.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chair

ATTEST:

Executive Director

//s// Anne C. Boyle
//s// Frank E. Landis

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