# STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

#### DT 10-136

### GRANITE STATE TELEPHONE, INC.

Petition for Authority to Disconnect Service to Global NAPs, Inc.

**Order Granting Authority to Disconnect Service** 

## ORDERNO.25,108

**June 4, 2010** 

## I. INTRODUCTION

On November 10, 2009, the Commission issued Order No. 25,043 (Disconnection Order) addressing a petition filed in Docket No. DT 08-028 by certain incumbent local exchange carriers<sup>1</sup> (TDS ILECs) seeking authority under Puc 412.19 to disconnect service to Global NAPs, Inc. (Global NAPs) for failure to pay for services rendered under applicable intrastate tariffs. In the Disconnection Order, the Commission authorized the TDS ILECs to disconnect service pursuant to certain procedural conditions, including efforts to reach mutual agreement on payment arrangements. In the absence of agreement, the Order directed Global NAPs to provide notice to affected customers of the impending disconnection.

The Disconnection Order also set forth a process under which telecommunication carriers could seek authority to disconnect service to Global NAPs for violation of an approved tariff.

The process established in the Disconnection Order requires the filing of a petition for authority to disconnect Global NAPs, supported by a full explanation of the grounds for disconnection.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The petitioning ILECs in that docket included Hollis Telephone Company, Inc., Kearsarge Telephone Company, Merrimack County Telephone Company and Wilton Telephone Company, Inc. (collectively, TDS).

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Global NAPs is granted 10 business days to respond in writing to such motions. The petition described below was filed pursuant to the Disconnection Order.

#### II. PETITION

On May 7, 2010, Granite State Telephone, Inc. (Granite State) filed a petition for authority to disconnect service, effective June 16, 2010, to Global NAPs and any of its affiliates that interconnect with Granite State in the State of New Hampshire (Petition). In support of its petition, Granite State, an ILEC authorized to serve in New Hampshire, states that from April 2005 through March 2010, inclusive and continuing, Global NAPs has sent terminating traffic to exchanges serviced by Granite State in New Hampshire.

According to Granite State, the applicable call detail records show that the Global NAPs traffic in question consists of toll service delivered to customers in the Chester, Hillsboro Upper Village, Washington and Weare exchanges and that the traffic is subject to applicable access charges. Granite State adds that its records establish that the traffic in question includes both intrastate and interstate traffic minutes for which Global NAPs has failed to pay the applicable charges set forth in Granite State's intrastate and interstate tariffs, charges which totaled \$204,619.66 for terminating access charges as of March 24, 2010. According to Granite State, it has attempted to resolve the billing dispute with Global NAPs to no avail. Copies of relevant correspondence and billing records were attached to the Petition.

On May 25, 2010, Global NAPs's counsel informed Commission Staff by e-mail that Global NAPs did not intend to respond to the Granite State Petition.

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#### III. COMMISSION ANALYSIS

The Disconnection Order permits other telecommunications carriers to file petitions for authority to disconnect service to Global NAPs where Global NAPs has failed to pay for access to other carriers' networks, in violation of approved tariffs. The Order requires that such petitions include a full explanation of the grounds for disconnection, and grants Global NAPs 10 business days to respond in writing. The Order further establishes that, if Global NAPs fails to provide evidence that it is not in violation of Commission rules, the carriers would be authorized to disconnect service to Global NAPs under the same conditions outlined in the Disconnection Order. Those conditions include a 30-day period during which Global NAPs may pay any outstanding invoices in full, with interest set at the current prime rate or, alternatively, to reach agreement with Granite State on terms of payment in exchange for the continuation of service.

In the instant case, Granite State attempted to engage Global NAPs in discussions concerning the non-payment of applicable access charges. Global NAPs did not respond to either Granite State's offer to discuss payment arrangements or to its petition to disconnect service. Accordingly, we grant Granite State authority to disconnect service to Global NAPs pursuant to Puc 412.19, 40 days after the issuance of this order.

Based on our review of the filings, we hereby direct Global NAPs to provide its customers within 10 days of this order the following notice:

"The New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission has authorized Granite State

Telephone to disconnect service to Global NAPs on or after July 14, 2010. In the event
of disconnection, your ability to complete calls in Granite State Telephone service
territory will be affected."

# Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that within 10 days of this order Global NAPs provide notice to its customers that it will no longer be able to complete calls within the Granite State Telephone Company service territory in accordance with the notice requirements contained herein; and it is FURTHER ORDERED, that Granite State Telephone may disconnect service to Global NAPs on or after July 14, 2010.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this fourth day of June 2010.

Thomas B. Getz Chairman Clifton C. Below Commissioner Amy L. Ignatius Commissioner

Attested by:

Lori A. Davis Assistant Secretary