

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DT 14-240

DIXVILLE TELEPHONE COMPANY

Petition for Approval to Discontinue Operations

ORDER OF NOTICE

On September 22, 2014, Dixville Telephone Company (Dixville) filed a Petition For Approval to Discontinue Operations pursuant to RSA 374:28, seeking Commission authorization to permanently discontinue its local telephone operations in New Hampshire.

In its petition, Dixville represented that it serves a small area of Northern New Hampshire, providing local exchange service, intrastate toll, exchange access, and other telecommunications services to portions of the Dixville township area of Coos County, primarily the former Balsams Grand Resort Hotel. Dixville asserted that it currently bills for only four access lines in service, and also provides wholesale special access service to one telecommunications carrier. According to the petition, in the absence of further development of the Balsams resort, it is very unlikely that Dixville's customer base will expand in the near future, and it is reasonably certain that any future development in its service area would require telecommunications services and infrastructure that it does not provide and lacks the financial resources to construct and operate.

In support of its request for authority to discontinue operations in its service area, Dixville maintained that, despite receiving substantial subsidies from the federal Universal Service Fund and pooled interstate access settlements from the National Exchange Carrier Association, Dixville loses money and has become a drain on the resources of its owners. As

Dixville is indirectly owned by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, its continued operations result in a financial drain on the public at large and the charitable organization that owns it. Dixville further asserted that affordable alternatives to its local service exist that are comparable to, or exceed, the quality of service it currently provides or is likely to be able to provide in the foreseeable future. Dixville's petition concluded that the balance of interests favors a determination that the public good does not require further continuance of its service.

Dixville's petition and subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, will be posted to the Commission's website at <http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2014/14-240.html>.

Dixville's filing raises, inter alia, issues related to telephone utility service discontinuance under RSA 374:28 and RSA 374:22-p, VIII (a), and whether the public good requires continuance of Dixville's service or whether the public good is adversely affected by discontinuance of such service. Each participant has the right to have an attorney at the participant's expense.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that a prehearing conference, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15, be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on October 28, 2014 at 1:30 p.m., at which each party will provide a preliminary statement of its position with regard to the petition and any of the issues set forth in N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15; and it is


FURTHER ORDERED, that, immediately following the prehearing conference, Dixville, the Staff of the Commission, and any intervenors hold a technical session to review the petition and allow Dixville to provide any amendments or updates to its filing; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, Dixville shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than October 3, 2014, in a newspaper with general circulation in those portions of the state in which operations are conducted, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before October 24, 2014; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.17, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission seven copies of a Petition to Intervene with copies sent to Dixville on or before October 24, 2014, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities, or other substantial interest may be affected by the proceeding, as required by N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.17 and RSA 541-A:32, I (b); and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before October 28, 2014.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twenty-sixth day of September, 2014.


Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability should contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, NHPUC, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429; 603-271-2431; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance should be made one week prior to the scheduled event.

SERVICE LIST - EMAIL ADDRESSES - DOCKET RELATED

Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.11 (a) (1): Serve an electronic copy on each person identified on the service list.

Executive.Director@puc.nh.gov

amanda.noonan@puc.nh.gov

anich@bwtc.net

awalsh@tillotsoncorp.com

david.wiesner@puc.nh.gov

hmalone@devinemillimet.com

kate.bailey@puc.nh.gov

michael.ladam@puc.nh.gov

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FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

- a) Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.02 (a), with the exception of Discovery, file 7 copies, as well as an electronic copy, of all documents including cover letter with: DEBRA A HOWLAND
EXEC DIRECTOR
NHPUC
21 S. FRUIT ST, SUITE 10
CONCORD NH 03301-2429
- b) Serve an electronic copy with each person identified on the Commission's service list and with the Office of Consumer Advocate.
- c) Serve a written copy on each person on the service list not able to receive electronic mail.