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April 15, 2002

### BY OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

Leon L. Nowalsky

Edward P. Gothard

Benjamin W. Bronston

Florida Public Service Commission Capital Circle Office Center 2540 Shumard Oak Blvd. Tallahassee. Florida 32399-0850

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Re:

Notification by LecStar Telecom, Inc. and Nuvox Communications,

Inc. of an Asset Purchase Agreement

Dear Sir or Madam:

On behalf of LecStar Telecom Inc. ("LecStar") and Nuvox Communications, Inc. ("Nuvox") this letter is to advise the Commission of an Asset Purchase Agreement (the "Agreement") which the companies propose to consummate. It is our understanding, based upon review of the applicable statutes and regulations, that this transaction does not require prior Commission approval. Accordingly, absent written notice to the contrary within thirty (30) days of the date of this letter, the parties will proceed to consummate the transaction in a timely fashion.

LecStar and Nuvox propose to consummate the Agreement whereby LecStar will purchase the telecommunications assets of Nuvox, to include only the residential local and long distance customers of Nuvox located in the BellSouth service territory. LecStar will not purchase and Nuvox will not sell the current business customers of Nuvox.

LecStar is a Georgia corporation with principal offices located at 4501 Circle 75 Parkway, Suite 4210, Building D, Atlanta, Georgia 30339. LecStar is a wholly owned subsidiary of LecStar Corporation, a publicly held Texas corporation. LecStar is a competitive provider of local and interexchange services. LecStar is a certificated local and interexchange provider in this State.<sup>1</sup>

DOCUMENT NUMBER - DATE

In this State, LecStar provides resold intrastate local exchange and long distance telecommunications services pursuant to authority granted in Docket Number 99-1639-TX effective date February 17, 2000.

Nuvox is a privately held South Carolina corporation with principal offices located at 16090 Swingley Ridge Road, Suite 500, Chesterfield, Missouri 63017. Nuvox is a certificated carrier in this State. <sup>2</sup>

The proposed Acquisition will accomplish the following:

- a. Nuvox shall sell, transfer and assign to LecStar all of Nuvox's right, title and interest in and to Nuvox's residential local and long distance telecommunications assets, as defined in the Asset Purchase Agreement;
- b. In consideration for the above transfer and sale of assets, LecStar will pay to Nuvox the purchase price set forth in the Asset Purchase Agreement.
- c. Following the transaction, Nuvox will continue to provide telecommunications services to its business customers, pursuant to the authority previously granted in this State.

LecStar proposes this transaction to transfer and consolidate the residential customer accounts of Nuvox in order to create a single, larger provider of residential local and long distance telecommunications services, facilitating efficiencies for the benefit for all of LecStar's customers. By virtue of these transactions, LecStar will realize significant economic, marketing and administrative efficiencies.

Following consummation of the transaction discussed above, the customers of Nuvox would be given the opportunity to switch their service from Nuvox to a substantially similar product offering of LecStar or choose a different carrier. Those customers of Nuvox who choose to switch their service to LecStar, will be transferred to LecStar and LecStar will continue to service these customers through and pursuant to the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, or other operating authority, presently utilized by LecStar in servicing its existing customers in this State.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> In this state, Nuvox was granted authority to provide local exchange and long distance telecommunications services pursuant to authority granted in Docket No. 010352-TP, Certificate No. 5638 (ALEC) and Certificate No. 5608 (IXC), dated May 3, 2001.

Prior to consummation of the proposed transaction, LecStar intends to notify all current end users of Nuvox of the event and of the opportunity to switch their service to a substantially similar product offering of LecStar or to choose a different carrier. The notification will be by bill insert, a sample copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

The technical, managerial and financial personnel of Nuvox will assist with the transition and integration of the acquired Assets for a designated period following the transaction. Thereafter, the technical, managerial and financial personnel of LecStar, will continue servicing the transferred Nuvox customers with the same high level of expertise that they have had in the past.

Critical to the proposed transaction and consolidation of customer accounts is the need to ensure the continuation of high quality service to all customers currently served by Nuvox. The proposed transaction will serve the public interest for the following reasons:

- a. It will enable LecStar to provide a streamlined level of service for all involved customers by creating a single, larger provider of telecommunications services to the customers in this State. The transaction will enhance the operating efficiencies, including market efficiencies, of LecStar.
- b. It will increase the appeal to present and potential customers because of LecStar's larger size and greater variety of service offerings and market visibility.
- c. Finally, it will result in cost savings as the result of discounts on quantity ordering of materials and services.

Accordingly, the requested transaction and subsequent consolidation will serve to create a heightened level of operating efficiency which generally will serve to enhance the overall capacity of LecStar to compete in the marketplace and to provide telecommunications services for a greater number of consumers in this state at competitive rates.

Additionally, LecStar will possess a greater customer account base as the result of the proposed purchase of assets, and will thus be a stronger carrier able to provide a higher quality and variety of services to all customers presently serviced by both LecStar and Nuvox.

The parties are forwarding this letter to the Commission for informational purposes, to be included in the appropriate files. Absent receipt of written notification to the contrary within thirty (30) days of the date of this letter, we will proceed under the understanding that no approval or other formal action is required by the Commission prior to consummation of the proposed transaction.

Enclosed are the original and seven (7) copies of this letter. Please return one (1) of the copies file-stamped in the envelope provided. If you need any further information or have any questions regarding the matters discussed herein, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

EllenAnn G. Sands

Nowalsky, Bronston & Gothard

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Suite 1442

Metairie, Louisiana 70002

(504) 832-1984

Counsel for LecStar Telecom, Inc. and

Nuvox Communications, Inc.

cc:

Michael Britt

Hamilton Russell

# EXHIBIT A

### **Customer Notice**



Date

Dear<

NuVox Communications, Inc., and LecStar Telecom, Inc., have entered into an agreement pursuant to which your account will be transferred to LecStar, pending regulatory approval. This back-office transfer will be transparent to you and will have no impact on your existing rates, terms, and conditions of service. To expedite the transition of your service to LecStar, you may sign the attached letter of agency and return it in the enclosed self-addressed envelope to LecStar.

Based in Atlanta, Georgia, LecStar offers local and long distance telephone services. Should you choose to select a different preferred carrier, you may do so within 30 days of this letter. If you have questions concerning your existing service, including billing issues, please contact NuVox Communications at 888-316-1778. If you would like to learn more about LecStar's extensive product set, please contact LecStar at 800-208-7033 or visit their website at www.lecstar.com.

Again, your existing NuVox Communications services will continue to operate at your current rates under your existing terms and conditions of service. You will receive advance notice of any future changes or enhancements to your service. If you currently use NuVox as your Internet provider, you will continue to receive fast, reliable access from them and will receive a separate NuVox invoice for your Internet service.

Your transition to LecStar will ensure that you continue to have access to superior services and world-class customer care. We appreciate your action on the attached letter of agency.

Sincerely,

Customer Signature\_

Rick Raynes Vice President, Business Development			
	(Detach here, sign and return)		
BY SIGNING AND INITIALIZING THIS LETTER OF AGENCY LECSTAR FOR THE FOLLOWING TELEPHONE SERVICE(S) PF			ERVICE PROVIDER TO
Telephone Services	Customer Initials	Current provider	LecStar
Local Service – Switch As is			
Intrastate IntraLATA (Local Toll) Service			
Intrastate InterLATA/Interstate (Long Distance) Service			
International (Long Distance) Service			
I designate LECSTAR to act as my agent to handle all necessary arrangement only one service provider for each telephone service offered from each telephones to the intraLATA Service, intrastate interLATA/Interstate Service and Inter	hone number and that I ma	y designate different servi	ce providers for Local Service,

make the change(s). I also understand that there may be a fee associated with switching service provider(s). (My signature on this letter of agency will result in a change of my service provider to LECSTAR for the services authorized above.)

Date

# **LECSTAR<sup>™</sup> Telephone Service**

#### **Terms and Conditions**

The telephone service provided by LecStar is subject to the following conditions:

<u>Taxes</u> – Regulatory fees and taxes will be charged as required by law and may differ from those charged from your previous provider. These items include PIC-C Fee, Subscriber Line Charge Fee, E911 Fee, LNP Fee, TRS Fees and Local, State and Federal taxes.

- Long-Distance and other Usage Calls For the LecStar long-distance rates to apply, the customer must select LecStar as their preferred Local, "1+" Local Toll and "1+" Long Distance provider. The long-distance service price is only for "1+" service for calls placed from the customer's service number to numbers within the contiguous 48 states. All operator assisted (collect, operator dialed, calling card, etc.), pay-per-use, (\*21, \*69, 411, etc.) and international calls will be at the rates offered by LecStar pursuant to its federal or state tariffs or price/rate lists, which may be modified from time to time. Calls made to enhanced service providers (900, 976, etc.) and long distance providers using "dial around access" (1010xxx) will be billed to the customer by the service provider responsible for those services at their standard rates.
- 2. <u>Billing</u> –When the customer's service is transferred to LecStar, the customer will receive a final bill from Nuvox for all charges and service credits (if any) incurred prior to the transfer to LecStar.

Your initial telephone bill from LecStar may include charges for the first "partial" billing period plus charges, fees and taxes for the first complete billing period, depending on your billing cycle. Please check the dates of service on your first invoice.

LecStar Telecom, Inc., P.O. Box 672075, Marietta, GA 30006-0035

Email: customerservice@LecStar.com

For Customer Service, please call 1-800-208-7033

- <Name>
- <Address>
- <City, State, Zip>:
- <County>:
- <Telephone Number>
- <NuVox Account #>:

<sup>\*\*</sup>Please detach, complete the reverse side, sign and return in the envelope provided\*\*