# **Eric Fryson**

From:	Brantl, Winafred R. <wbrantl@kelleydrye.com></wbrantl@kelleydrye.com>
Sent:	Thursday, May 16, 2013 12:35 PM
То:	Filings@psc.state.fl.us
Subject:	Unity Telecom, LLC Notice of Service Discontinuance
Attachments:	Unity Telecom Florida Discontinuance Notice.pdf

Importance:

High

Hello. Attached, on behalf of Unity Telecom, LLC f/k/a dPi Teleconnect, LLC, please find the Company's notice regarding discontinuance of its prepaid wireline service. (<u>The Company does not wish to surrender its certificate at this time</u>.)

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this filing.

Thank you.

Winafred Brantl Counsel for Unity Telecom, LLC

Winafred Brantl | Kelley Drye & Warren LLP Washington Harbour, Suite 400 3050 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20007-5108 202.342.8819 | wbrantl@kelleydrye.com 202.342.8451 (fax) www.kelleydrye.com

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A LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP

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May 16, 2013

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Ms. Ann Cole Commission Clerk Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Blvd. Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Re: Notification of Unity Telecom, LLC's Intent to Discontinue Services

Dear Ms. Cole:

Unity Telecom, LLC f/k/a dPi Teleconnect, LLC ("Unity Telecom" or the "Company") hereby notifies the Florida Public Service Commission ("Commission") that it intends to discontinue the provision of its current prepaid wireline local exchange and interexchange service offering to customers within the State of Florida. In response to changing market conditions, Unity Telecom has determined that it is no longer feasible to continue to offer this service package. The proposed discontinuance will not result in harm to the affected customers because they are being provided significant advance notice of the discontinuance and equivalent service offerings are available from other carriers, including the underlying carriers whose services Unity Telecom resells.

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE 02700 MAY 16 9 FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

May 16, 2013 Page Two

In connection with this filing, Unity Telecom submits the following information:

## I. Description of Discontinuance

The Company

Unity Telecom, LLC 1330 Capital Parkway Carroll, TX 75006

Unity Telecom provides intrastate services in Florida pursuant to authority granted by the Commission. Because Unity Telecom may continue to provide telecommunications services in Florida with a reformulated offering, the Company does not wish to surrender its authorization at this time.

#### Date of Proposed Discontinuance

Subject to receipt of necessary regulatory approvals, the Company plans to discontinue the affected services on May 31, 2013. All customers will have received notice at least 60 days in advance of this shut-off date.

#### Services to be Discontinued & Affected Customers in Florida

Unity Telecom proposes to discontinue its current prepaid wireline local exchange and interexchange service offering. At this time, Unity Telecom delivers these services to three (3) customers in Florida.

#### Date and Method of Customer Notice

On March 27, 2013, Unity Telecom sent written notice by first-class mail to affected customers, informing them that the Company will cease providing the prepaid local exchange and long distances services that they currently receive, effective May 31, 2013. The notice clearly underscores that customers must make arrangements with another carrier to avoid loss of service and provides a toll-free telephone number that customers may call to reach Unity Telecom service representatives for assistance with this transition. A sample copy of this notice,

May 16, 2013 Page Three

which also complies with the requirements of the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC"), is appended as Exhibit A.

## II. Questions and correspondence regarding this notification should be addressed to:

Winafred R. Brantl Kelley Drye & Warren, LLP 3050 K Street, NW #400 Washington, DC 20007 (202) 342-8819 (202) 342-8451 (fax) wbrantl@kelleydrye.com

with a copy to:

Melanie King Amvensys Capital 1330 Capital Parkway Carroll, TX 75006 melanie.king@amvensys.com

# III. Circumstances of Discontinuance

As discussed above, Unity Telecom has determined that market conditions make unfeasible the continued provision of its current prepaid intrastate service offerings. Consequently, the Company proposes to discontinue these service offerings at this time. Following implementation of this decision, Unity Telecom will reassess its alternatives for continued operations in the intrastate and interstate telecommunications markets. Because the Company anticipates that it may continue to provide regulated intrastate services in Florida, Unity Telecom does not wish to surrender its telecommunications authorization at this time.

May 16, 2013 Page Four

### **IV.** Public Interest Considerations

Unity Telecom's proposed discontinuance is consistent with the public interest. The services offered by Unity Telecom are available from other providers in the Florida market. Consequently, Unity Telecom's customers will not be unduly harmed as they will be able to transition to new providers. Consistent with Commission and FCC requirements, Unity Telecom's customers have been given sufficient advance notice of the need to select a new provider such that they will be able to do so in a thoughtful and informed manner. Company representatives will be available throughout the transition period to assist customers with this process.

# V. Summary

Subject to any required regulatory approvals, Unity Telecom expects to implement the proposed discontinuance on May 31, 2013. Should the Commission have any questions regarding this filing, pleased contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Winafred R. Brantl Winafred R. Brantl Kelley Drye & Warren, LLP 3050 K Street, NW #400 Washington, DC 20007 (202) 342-8819 (202) 342-8451 (fax) wbrantl@kelleydrye.com

Counsel for Unity Telecom, LLC

# Exhibit A

Sample Customer Discontinuance Notice

Unity Telecom

March 27, 2013

[Customer Name] [Address Line 1] [City, State, Zip ] [Telephone Number]

# Notice of Discontinuance of Your *Home Phone* Telephone Service by Unity Telecom, LLC

Dear Customer:

Unity Telecom, LLC ("Unity Telecom") regrets to inform you that it is preparing to cease providing its *Home Phone* prepaid local and long distance service to customers in a significant part of its service area.<sup>1</sup> In order to avoid a disruption in telephone service, you must make arrangements for new service before the cut-off date noted below. You may choose any local telephone service company that operates in your area. Unity Telecom would be pleased to continue to serve you with one of our other telephone plans. Please call us at 855-864-8983 for more information. Alternatively, the names and telephone numbers of other local telephone service companies, which also typically provide long distance service, are listed in your telephone directory. Customer service representatives at these companies will help you to select services to most effectively replace your current Unity Telecom service. If you arrange for service with a new provider before your Unity Telecom *Home Phone* service is terminated and wish to keep your current telephone number(s), please be sure to address this with your new service provider.<sup>2</sup>

Subject to regulatory approvals, <u>your service cut-off date is May 31, 2013</u>. If you do not arrange to have your telephone service provided by a new telephone company (or change to a different Unity Telecom service plan) prior to May 31, 2013, you may lose telephone service (which means that you will be unable to make local calls including 911) and you may not be able to keep your current telephone number(s) with a new service provider. Effective with this notice, Unity Telecom will no longer make any changes to or reconnect existing *Home Phone* service and will not accept orders for new *Home Phone* service.

<sup>2</sup> Please be aware that Unity Telecom will not charge any switching fees in connection with your transition to a new provider.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Company is revising its business plan and continued provision of *Home Phone* service in a number of states is no longer feasible. This discontinuance affects customers for Unity Telecom's *Home Phone* service plans in AL, AR, AZ, CA, DE, FL, GA, IN, KY, LA, MA, MD, MI, MO, NC, NJ, NV, NY, OK, PA, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV.



The Federal Communications Commission requires us to provide you with the following notice in connection with its review of the proposed discontinuance:

The FCC will normally authorize this proposed discontinuance of service unless it is shown that customers would be unable to receive service or a reasonable substitute from another carrier or that the public convenience and necessity is otherwise adversely affected. If you wish to object, you should file your comments as soon as possible, but no later than 15 days after the Commission releases public notice of the proposed discontinuance. Address them to the Federal Communications Commission, Wireline Competition Bureau, Competition Policy Division, Washington, DC 20554, and include in your comments a reference to the § 63.71 Application of Unity Telecom, LLC. Comments should include specific information about the impact of this proposed discontinuance upon you or your company, including any inability to acquire reasonable substitute service.

We thank you for being a Unity Telecom *Home Phone* customer and wish you well with your new provider. Should you have any questions or be interested in discussing other Unity Telecom service offerings, please contact Unity Telecom at 855-864-8983.

Sincerely,

Unity Telecom, LLC 1330 Capital Parkway Carrollton, TX 75006

**Note:** State law in various jurisdictions requires that we clarify the timing for return of deposits in connection with this discontinuance; however, Unity Telecom does not collect deposits from its customers.