

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

*R. O. Bender*

In the matter of the application of Western Union Corporation for permission to discontinue WULDS intrastate telecommunications service and to cancel its tariff in the state of Missouri. )  
)  
) Case No. TD-89-219  
)  
)

APPEARANCES: Peter M. Anderson, Senior Counsel, Western Union Corporation,  
One Lake Street, Uper Saddle River, New Jersey 07458,  
and  
Richard S. Brownlee, III, Hendren and Andrae, Post Office Box 1069,  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, for Western Union Corporation.

HEARING  
EXAMINER: Alisa M. Dotson.

REPORT AND ORDER

On April 27, 1989, Western Union Corporation (Applicant) filed for authority to discontinue Western Union Long-Distance Service (WULDS) in the state of Missouri and to cancel its tariff P.S.C. Mo. No. 3 in the state of Missouri. Applicant gave notice to its subscribers that it intended to discontinue service. No subscriber comments were received by this office.

Findings of Fact

The Missouri Public Service Commission, having considered all of the competent and substantial evidence upon the whole record, makes the following findings of fact.

This Commission granted Applicant a certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing it to provide intrastate interLATA and intraLATA toll telecommunications services in Case No. TA-86-66 (May 29, 1987). Under the authority of its certificate, Applicant has been providing WULDS, a long distance switched-voice service, to residential and business subscribers through its own facilities and/or facilities leased from other carriers.

Applicant stated it has a small subscriber base in the state of Missouri. As of April 1, 1989, Applicant had 316 residential subscribers and 78 business subscribers to whom it offers WULDS (interstate and intrastate). In 1988, intrastate traffic represented 12.92 percent of WULDS traffic, and less than one percent of all traffic handled by Applicant.

Applicant has sold its customer base to Teleconnect Co. (Teleconnect), a subsidiary of Telecom\*USA, but has not sold any facilities or assets. Teleconnect has a certificate from this Commission authorizing it to provide intrastate long distance telecommunications service as a reseller. Applicant stated that Teleconnect will provide its customers with more services at lower rates or Applicant's current rates. Applicant notified all of its customers by a letter dated April 24, 1989, that their service would soon be transferred to Teleconnect unless the subscriber objected.

On July 28, 1989, the Commission Staff (Staff) filed its recommendation that the instant application be granted. Staff stated that Applicant intends to continue offering the deregulated services that it is currently offering (Telex or telegram services, Easylink or Money Transfer services, and its digital cable or fiber optic system services). Staff also stated Applicant has requested that it be able to retain its certificate of public convenience and necessity because it provides these services.

Staff has recommended that Applicant's certificate be canceled. Staff stated that with WULDS being discontinued, Applicant will not have an effective tariff on file. Moreover, Applicant will no longer be providing any regulated services in Missouri and will no longer be subject to this Commission's jurisdiction. Therefore, it is not necessary for Applicant to retain its certificate.

The Commission has reviewed the application and its attachments and the recommendation of its Staff and finds that discontinuation of Applicant's WULDS intrastate telecommunications service and cancellation of its tariff is not

detrimental to the public interest. The Commission further finds that Applicant's certificate should be canceled and such cancellation is not detrimental to the public interest.

Conclusions of Law

The Missouri Public Service Commission has arrived at the following conclusions.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this application pursuant to Section 393.170, R.S.Mo. 1986. The Commission has determined that discontinuation of Applicant's long distance service and cancellation of its tariff is not detrimental to the public interest. The Commission has also determined that Applicant's certificate of public convenience and necessity should also be canceled.

It is, therefore,

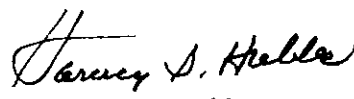
ORDERED: 1. That Western Union Corporation is hereby granted authority to discontinue its WULDS intrastate telecommunications service.

ORDERED: 2. That P.S.C. Mo. No. 3, the tariff of Western Union Corporation, is hereby canceled.

ORDERED: 3. That the certificate of public convenience and necessity held by Western Union Corporation is hereby canceled.

ORDERED: 4. That this Report And Order shall become effective on the 5th day of September, 1989.

BY THE COMMISSION

  
Harvey G. Hubbs  
Secretary

(S E A L)

Steinmeier, Chm., Mueller,  
Fischer and Rauch, CC., Concur.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,  
on this 25th day of August, 1989.