

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
1325 G STREET, N.W., SUITE 800
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005**

ORDER

October 28, 2024

FORMAL CASE NOS. TA1996-01 AND TA1997-06, IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT APPLICATION OF AT&T ENTERPRISES, LLC AND TELEPORT COMMUNICATIONS AMERICA, LLC TO ABANDON CERTAIN BUSINESS LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICES, Order No. 22320

I. INTRODUCTION

1. By this Order, the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia (“Commission”) grants the Joint Application (“Joint Application”) of AT&T Enterprises, LLC (“AT&T”) and Teleport Communications America, LLC (“Teleport”) (collectively, the “Applicants”), requesting the abandonment of certain business local exchange services in the District of Columbia (“District”).¹ The Applicants’ abandonment of the business local exchange services described herein shall become effective on January 30, 2025.

II. BACKGROUND

2. On October 9, 2024, AT&T and Teleport filed a Joint Application to abandon certain business local exchange telephone services. Specifically, the Applicants request that the Commission grant their request to discontinue providing local exchange services known as ALS Digital Trunks and Prime Digital Trunk in the District effective January 30, 2025.² The Applicants explain that ALS Digital Trunks and Prime Digital Trunk are intended to be provided to business customers but propose to discontinue these services because they have no business customers subscribing to either service in the District. The Applicants add that they have no plans to abandon their competitive local exchange carrier (“CLEC”) certificates and intend to continue providing other business services in the District.³ No comments on the Joint Application were filed or received. The Commission has reviewed the Joint Application, and our evaluation of the Joint Application is based solely on whether the information provided therein conforms with the requirements of 15 DCMR § 2705, Abandonment of Service.

¹ *Formal Case Nos. TA1996-01 and TA1997-06, In the Matter of the Joint Applications of AT&T Enterprises, LLC and Teleport Communications America, LLC to Abandon Certain Business Local Exchange Services (“Formal Case Nos. TA1996-01 and TA1997-06”)*, Joint Application to Abandon Certain Business Local Exchange Services (“Joint Application”), filed October 9, 2024.

² Joint Application at 1.

³ Joint Application at 1.

III. DISCUSSION

3. In its Application, AT&T provides responses pursuant to the requirements of 15 DCMR § 2705.2 (a) – (n):

- (a) **The applicant's name, address, telephone number, fax number, the name under which the applicant is providing service in the District of Columbia, the date and order number of the Commission order that authorized the applicant to provide telecommunications services in the District of Columbia, and the proposed abandonment of service date;**

4. In response, the Applicants provide the following information: AT&T provides ALS Digital Trunks service in the District as AT&T Enterprises, LLC; 208 S. Akard Street, Dallas Texas, 75202; telephone number- 210-821-4105. AT&T's CLEC certificate was initially granted to AT&T Communications of Washington, D.C., LLC, pursuant to Order No. 10816, issued on July 19, 1996.⁴ Under a series of internal mergers approved by the Commission, the certificate is now held by AT&T Enterprises, LLC. The Applicants state that the proposed date for the discontinuation of ALS Digital Trunks business service is January 30, 2025.⁵

5. Teleport provides Prime Digital Trunk service in the District as Teleport Communications America, LLC.; 208 S. Akard Street, Dallas Texas, 75202; telephone number- 210-821-4105. Teleport's CLEC certificate was initially granted to Teleport Communications – Washington, D.C., pursuant to Order 10847, issued on September 26, 1996.⁶ Under an internal merger approved by the Commission, the certificate is now held by Teleport Communications America, LLC. The Applicants state that proposed date for the discontinuation of Prime Digital Trunk business service is January 30, 2025.⁷

- (b) **Description of the nature of the proposed abandonment, reduction or impairment of service;**

6. The Applicants respond that they propose to discontinue providing business local exchange services known as ALS Digital Trunks and Prime Digital Trunk in the District, effective January 30, 2025. They assert that ALS Digital Trunks (offered out of the AT&T Enterprises, LLC tariff) and Prime Digital Trunk (offered out of the Teleport Communications America, LLC tariff) are functionally equivalent services. The Applicants explain specifically that ALS Digital Trunks and Prime Digital Trunk are fractional digital switched services that provide trunk

⁴ *Formal Case No. TA1996-01* (originally, *Formal Case No. 892*), *In the Matter of the Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity of Teleport Communications of Washington, D.C., Inc.*, Order No. 10816, rel. July 19, 1996.

⁵ Joint Application at 2.

⁶ *Formal Case No. 892*, *In the Matter of the Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity of Teleport Communications of Washington. D.C. Inc.*, Order No. 10847, rel. September 26, 1996.

⁷ Joint Application at 2.

connections from an end user's Private Branch Exchange or capable Key System to the Company Switch Port and are delivered via a DS1 (1.544 Mbps) facility providing up to 23 voice-grade DS0 communications channels.⁸

7. The Applicants assert that on December 15, 2015, AT&T notified the Commission in *Formal Case No. TA1996-01* that AT&T Corp. was grandfathering ALS Digital Trunks (P.S.C.-D.C.-No. 7, Section 7.17 of the tariff), and the service would no longer be available to new customers or for contract renewals effective December 30, 2015. In addition, on December 29, 2015, Teleport Communications America, LLC notified the Commission in *Formal Case No. TA1996-01* that it was grandfathering Prime Digital Trunk (P.S.C. - D.C. - No. 3, Section 12.1 of the tariff) and the service would no longer be available to new customers or for contract renewals effective December 30, 2015.⁹

- (c) **A complete explanation of the reasons for the proposed abandonment of service, including, but not limited to, a statement as to whether the applicant proposes to abandon the provisioning of telecommunications services in the District of Columbia in whole, or only in part, and if only in part, a description of the proposed abandonment (for instance, for a class of customers, such as residential customers or business customers, or, customers located in specified geographic areas);**

8. In response, the Applicants state that they have experienced a decline in the number of business customers who choose to use a traditional access line for voice communications. Most business customers, according to the Applicants, have moved to replacement services, including Voice over Internet Protocol (“VoIP”) or wireless services. Due to the declining volumes and increases in maintenance and administrative costs, the Applicants seek to cease providing its ALS Digital Trunks and Prime Digital Trunk services to business customers in the District. The Applicants state that AT&T will continue to provide other services to business customers in the District, including replacement services such as AT&T Phone for Business- Advanced, AT&T Office@Hand, AT&T IP Flexible Reach, or AT&T Cloud Voice for Microsoft Teams. The Applicants pledge that they are not abandoning their CLEC certificates and that AT&T and Teleport will continue to offer other business telecommunications services in the District.¹⁰

- (d) **A plan for the refund of any deposits collected from affected customers, with accrued interest less any amounts due to the applicant;**

9. The Applicants state that this is not applicable because there are no customers subscribing to either ALS Digital Trunks or Prime Digital Trunk services in the District.¹¹

⁸ Joint Application at 2-3.

⁹ Joint Application at 3.

¹⁰ Joint Application at 3.

¹¹ Joint Application at 4.

- (e) **If the applicant proposes to abandon the provisioning of telecommunications services in the District of Columbia in whole, a description of the arrangements made for payment of any outstanding taxes, fees, or other amounts owed to the Commission or any other agency of the District of Columbia;**

10. The Applicants assert that this section is inapplicable; it is not abandoning services in whole.¹²

- (f) **A statement as to whether the applicant owns facilities in the District of Columbia, and if so, a plan for the applicant to remove, maintain, or transfer any facilities in the District of Columbia that would otherwise be abandoned;**

11. The Applicants state that they own facilities in the District and will continue to utilize those facilities in the provision of other business services not impacted by the limited service abandonment. They assert that those facilities are not impacted by this Joint Application.¹³

- (g) **An identification of the geographic area involved and date on which the applicant desires to make the proposed abandonment, reduction, or impairment of service effective;**

12. The Applicants assert that the proposed discontinuance of certain business services applies to the entire District. The Applicants add that they seek to make the proposed abandonment of those services effective as of January 30, 2025.¹⁴

- (h) **A statement of the number of customers, classified by residential or business customer, affected by the proposed abandonment, reduction or impairment of service;**

13. The Applicants respond that no residential customers would be affected by the proposed abandonment. The Applicants add that they have no business customers that would be affected by the proposed abandonment of ALS Digital Trunks and Prime Digital Trunk services inasmuch as the affected services were grandfathered for business customers on December 30, 2015, and there are no business customers subscribing to either service in the District.¹⁵

- (i) **A statement of the number of customers affected by the proposed abandonment, reduction or impairment of service for whom the applicant receives universal service support;**

¹² Joint Application at 4.

¹³ Joint Application at 4.

¹⁴ Joint Application at 4.

¹⁵ Joint Application at 4.

14. The Applicants respond that no such customers will be affected.¹⁶

(j) A statement of the date on which notice of the proposed abandonment, reduction or impairment of service will be sent to affected customers;

15. The Applicants respond that because there are no customers in the District subscribing to the affected services, no customer notice is necessary.¹⁷

(k) A copy of the notice that will be sent to affected customers;

16. The Applicants respond similarly that because there are no customers in the District subscribing to the affected services, no customer notice is necessary.¹⁸

(l) If the abandonment, reduction or impairment of service application is filed because the applicant is discontinuing TDM-based local exchange service, a copy of the application filed with the Federal Communications Commission pursuant to 47 C.F.R Part 63;

17. The Applicants state that this section is inapplicable.¹⁹

(m) A statement of the factors showing that neither present nor future public interest, convenience and necessity would adversely be affected by the granting of the application; and

18. The Applicants contend that the Commission's granting of this Joint Application will have no negative effect on the telecommunications market in the District because there are no customers subscribing to the ALS Digital Trunks and Prime Digital Trunk services that are being discontinued. In addition, the Applicants state that they will continue to provide other services to business customers in the District, including replacement services such as AT&T Phone for Business- Advanced, AT&T Office@Hand, AT&T IP Flexible Reach, or AT&T Cloud Voice for Microsoft Teams. They also state that cable companies, wireless companies, and VoIP providers provide other business services in the District. The Applicants conclude that the abandonment of the affected services will not deprive the public of necessary telecommunications services and will at the same time facilitate the Applicants' efforts to operate in the most efficient manner possible, to the ultimate benefit of their customers in the District.²⁰

¹⁶ Joint Application at 5.

¹⁷ Joint Application at 5.

¹⁸ Joint Application at 5.

¹⁹ Joint Application at 5.

²⁰ Joint Application at 5.

- (n) **An affidavit verifying that all of the information in the application is true and correct.**

19. The Applicants attach the Verification of Vince Apruzzese, Jr., Assistant Vice President of AT&T-Washington, D.C.²¹

IV. DECISION

20. Under 15 DCMR § 2705.2, an abandonment of service application filing must provide information responsive to the requirements of 15 DCMR § 2705.2 (a) – (n). Following review of the Applicants' filing, the Commission finds that their responses contain the information required by this rule.

21. Under 15 DCMR § 2705.4, the exiting provider must give written notice to its customers of a proposed discontinuance of service. In the instant case, the Applicants have no customers subscribing to the services proposed for discontinuation. Accordingly, no notice is necessary in this instance.

22. According to 15 DCMR § 2705.13, Commission approval of an applicant's abandonment of service is conditioned on the applicant satisfying certain requirements reflected in that section, such as: (a) the CLEC has satisfied outstanding debts owed the Commission or any agency of the District government; (b) the applicant has complied with § 2705, or any similar provision in § 2706 and other Commission rules; (c) the CLEC has developed and implemented a comprehensive plan for returning customer deposits; (d) the applicant has satisfied switchover fees incurred by customers affected by the abandonment of service; and (e) the approval of the abandonment of certification application would serve the public interest.

23. Following review of the Applicants' filing, the Commission finds that the Applicants have complied with these requirements as well as any of the analogous provisions in 15 DCMR § 2706 and other Commission rules. We note that there are no required payments of any outstanding obligations to the Commission or to the District government as required for providers leaving the market entirely, inasmuch as the Applicants will remain in business in the District. Moreover, the Applicants assert that they hold no deposits from any customers because they have no customers tied to the discontinuation of the services covered by this Application. Lastly, as stated earlier, the Commission finds that granting the Applicants' request to abandon the services described in the Joint Application is in the public interest inasmuch as the Applicants will continue to offer other services such as AT&T Phone for Business- Advanced, AT&T Office@Hand, AT&T IP Flexible Reach, or AT&T Cloud Voice for Microsoft Teams, to interested business customers in the District.

24. Based on our review of the Applicants' responses to 15 DCMR § 2705, we conclude that they have adequately addressed those provisions, and we will grant their request to abandon the telecommunications services described in the Joint Application. Accordingly, the Applicants'

²¹ Joint Application at 6; Attached Verification at 7.

abandonment of their ALS Digital Trunks and Prime Digital Trunk business local exchange services shall become effective on January 30, 2025, the date that the Applicants plan to terminate these services.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

25. The Joint Application of AT&T Enterprises, LLC and Teleport Communications America, LLC to abandon their ALS Digital Trunks and Prime Digital Trunk local exchange services to business customers is **GRANTED**; and

26. The discontinuance and abandonment of these services shall become effective on January 30, 2025.

A TRUE COPY:

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brinda Westbrook-Sedgwick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B'.

CHIEF CLERK:

**BRINDA WESTBROOK-SEDGWICK
COMMISSION SECRETARY**