

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

In the Matter of the Application of)
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS)
CORPORATION OF MARYLAND)
For a Certificate of Registration.)

DOCKET NO. 2006-0099

DECISION AND ORDER NO. 22571

Filed June 29, 2006
At 9:20 o'clock A .M.

Karen Higashi
Chief Clerk of the Commission

DIV. OF CONSUMER ADVOCACY
DEPT. OF COMMERCE AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF HAWAII

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ATTEST: A True Copy
KAREN HIGASHI
Chief Clerk, Public Utilities
Commission, State of Hawaii.

K. Higashi

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DECISION AND ORDER

By this Decision and Order, the commission grants TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS CORPORATION OF MARYLAND ("Applicant") a certificate of registration ("COR") to provide commercial mobile radio services ("CMRS") (also known as wireless telecommunications services), on a resold basis in the State of Hawaii ("State").

I.

Background

Applicant is a Maryland corporation with its principal place of business in Annapolis, Maryland. Applicant is authorized to transact business in the State of Hawaii as a foreign corporation.

A.

Applicant's Request

On April 27, 2006, Applicant filed its application for a COR to operate as a CMRS provider on a resold basis in the

State.¹ Applicant utilized the form application developed in In re Public Utilities Commission, Docket No. 03-0186, Order No. 21324, filed on August 27, 2004 ("Order No. 21324"), to make its request ("Official COR Form").

B.

Consumer Advocate's Position

On May 15, 2006, the Consumer Advocate filed its Statement of Position informing the commission that it does not object to approval of Applicant's request. The Consumer Advocate noted that Applicant provided the information required in the Official COR Form, but observed that Applicant's telephone number for customer service inquiries may not be a toll-free number, as required under HAR § 6-80-114(6). If Applicant's telephone number for customer service inquiries is not a toll-free number, the Consumer Advocate recommended that Applicant be required to provide a toll-free telephone number to receive calls regarding service or billing matters. The Consumer Advocate also recommended that Applicant be required to maintain and promptly provide updated information regarding its service plans (with terms and conditions) and the appropriate contact information (i.e., designated carrier representative) upon the commission's, the Consumer Advocate's, or a consumer's request.

¹Applicant served copies of the application on the DIVISION OF CONSUMER ADVOCACY, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS ("Consumer Advocate"), an *ex officio* party to this docket pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS") § 269-51 and Hawaii Administrative Rules ("HAR") § 6-61-62.

II.

Discussion

HRS § 269-7.5 prohibits a public utility from commencing business in the State without first obtaining a certificate of public convenience and necessity ("CPCN") from the commission.² HAR § 6-80-17(c) and (d) also state, in relevant part:

(c) Any person, other than the incumbent telecommunications carrier, seeking to offer, initiate, or provide intrastate telecommunications service must apply in writing to the commission for a certificate of authority. The application must:

(1) Include information on the:

- (A) Type of telecommunications service to be offered;
- (B) Geographical scope of the carrier's proposed operation;
- (C) Type of equipment to be employed in the service;
- (D) Rates or charges proposed to be imposed and the regulations that will govern the proposed service; and
- (E) Applicant's financial ability to render the proposed service, including a copy of the most recent audited financial statement and, if more than three months have elapsed since the date of the most recent audited financial statement, a current, unaudited financial statement; and

(2) Comply with all applicable commission orders and rules. The commission may reject any application that fails to meet any of these requirements or is otherwise incomplete.

²On June 3, 1996, HAR Chapter 6-80 took effect. HAR Chapter 6-80, among other things, replaces the CPCN with a COR for telecommunications carriers providing CMRS, and establishes procedures for requesting and issuing a COR.

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- (d) Where exempted by federal law from entry regulation by the State, a telecommunications carrier seeking to offer, initiate, or provide intrastate telecommunications service shall apply for a certificate of registration with the commission by complying with subsections (c)(1) (A) - (D) and (c)(2) only.

HAR § 6-80-17(c) and (d) (emphasis added).

Recognizing that the federal Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 preempted state and local governments from regulating the entry of and the rates charged by providers of CMRS, while expressly allowing states to regulate the other terms and conditions of commercial mobile services,³ the commission initiated Docket No. 03-0186 to investigate and determine whether it is consistent with the public interest to exempt CMRS providers and their services from any provisions of HRS Chapter 269. On April 7, 2004, the commission issued Decision and Order No. 20890 waiving various regulatory requirements of HRS Chapter 269 and HAR Chapter 6-80 for any and all CMRS providers in Hawaii, subject to certain applicable conditions, limitations, and clarifications. On August 27, 2004, the commission issued Order No. 21324 correcting certain clerical errors of Decision and Order No. 20890 and adopting an official application form for CMRS providers and cellular resellers, i.e., the Official COR Form.

³See In re Public Utilities Commission, Docket No. 03-0186, Decision and Order No. 20890, filed on April 7, 2004 ("Decision and Order No. 20890"), at 1-2 (citing Pub. L. No. 103-66, Title VI, § 6002, 107 Stat. 312, 392 (1993) (codified in principal part at 47 U.S.C. § 332)).

Upon review, the commission finds that Applicant has sufficiently satisfied the requirements of HAR § 6-80-17, to the extent such requirements were not waived in accordance with Decision and Order No. 20890, as amended by Order No. 21324.⁴ Consistent with Decision and Order No. 20890, the commission also finds, at this time, that providing appropriate regulatory flexibility to entities providing CMRS, including wireless resellers promotes increased competition and investment in the State's wireless telecommunications market.

With regard to the Consumer Advocate's recommendation regarding compliance with HAR § 6-80-114(6), the commission finds that Applicant should review the telephone number provided for customer service inquiries and provide a toll-free number to receive calls regarding service or billing matters, as required by HAR § 6-80-114(6), if it determines that the number initially provided is not a toll-free number. The commission notes that the requirements of HAR § 6-80-114 were not waived by Decision and Order No. 20890. The commission also finds that Applicant should be required to maintain and promptly provide updated information regarding its service plans (with terms and conditions) and the appropriate contact information (i.e., designated carrier representative) upon the commission's, the Consumer Advocate's or a consumer's request.

⁴To the extent that it was not waived by Decision and Order No. 20890, as amended by Order No. 21324, the commission also waives the publication requirement in HAR § 6-61-57(2). See HRS § 269-16.9; HAR § 6-80-135.

Based on the foregoing, the commission concludes that Applicant should be granted a COR to provide CMRS on a resold basis in the State. Additionally, the commission concludes that Applicant should supplement its application through a letter to the commission, with a copy to the Consumer Advocate, if it determines that the telephone number that it initially provided to receive customer service questions is not a toll-free number, in accordance with HAR § 6-80-114(6).⁵ The commission also concludes that the Applicant should maintain and promptly provide updated information regarding its service plans (with terms and conditions) and the appropriate contact information (i.e., designated carrier representative) upon request by the commission, the Consumer Advocate, or a consumer.

III.

Orders

1. Applicant is granted a COR to provide CMRS on a resold basis in the State.

2. As a holder of a COR, Applicant shall be subject to all applicable provisions of HRS Chapter 269; HAR Chapters 6-80, 6-81, and 6-82; any other applicable State laws and commission rules; and any orders that the commission may issue from time to time.

3. Consistent with Decision and Order No. 20890, Applicant is not required to file tariffs in accordance with HAR

⁵The telephone number to receive customer service inquiries on Applicant's website, if any, should also be amended within a reasonable time period, to reflect the toll-free number.

§§ 6-80-39 and 6-80-40; provided that Applicant maintains and promptly provides updated information regarding its service plans (with terms and conditions) and the appropriate contact information (i.e., designated carrier representative) upon the commission's, the Consumer Advocate's, or a customer's request. Such updated information shall also be placed within a reasonable time period on Applicant's website, if any.

4. Within thirty (30) days from the date of this Decision and Order, Applicant shall supplement its Application through a letter to the commission, with a copy to the Consumer Advocate, if it determines that the telephone number it initially provided to receive customer service questions is not a toll-free number, in compliance with HAR § 6-80-114(6), and consistent with ordering paragraph no. 3 above, Applicant shall also update its number to receive customer inquiries on its website, if any, within a reasonable period of time.

5. Within thirty (30) days from the date of this Decision and Order, Applicant shall pay a public utility fee of \$60, pursuant to HRS § 269-30. The business check shall be made payable to the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission, and sent to the commission's office at 465 S. King Street, Room #103, Honolulu, HI, 96813.

6. Within thirty (30) days from the date of this Decision and Order, Applicant shall also pay a telecommunications relay service ("TRS") contribution of \$10.00, established pursuant to: (A) Act 50, adopted on May 7, 2003 (codified as HRS § 269-16.6); and (B) Decision and Order No. 21847, filed on

May 31, 2005, in Docket No. 05-0088. The business check shall be made payable to "Hawaii TRS," and sent to the Hawaii TRS Administrator, Solix, Inc.,⁶ 80 S. Jefferson Road, Whippany, NJ 07981. Written proof of payment shall be sent to the commission.

7. Failure to promptly comply with the requirements set forth in paragraphs 2 to 6, above, as applicable, may constitute cause to void this Decision and Order, and may result in further regulatory action, as authorized by law.

DONE at Honolulu, Hawaii JUN 29 2006.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

By 
Carlito P. Caliboso, Chairman

By (EXCUSED)
Wayne H. Kimura, Commissioner

By 
Janet E. Kawelo, Commissioner

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Stacey Kawasaki Djou
Commission Counsel

2006-0099.eh

⁶Solix, Inc. was formerly known as NECA Services, Inc.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this date served a copy of the foregoing Decision and Order No. 22571 upon the following parties, by causing a copy hereof to be mailed, postage prepaid, and properly addressed to each such party.

JOHN E. COLE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
DIVISION OF CONSUMER ADVOCACY
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Attorney for TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS CORPORATION OF
MARYLAND



Karen Higashi

DATED: JUN 29 2006