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43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1997

INTRODUCED BY

TIMOTHY Z. JENNINGS

## AN ACT

RELATING TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS: PROVIDING THAT A TELEPHONE COMPANY'S CERTIFICATED AREA INCLUDES ANY AREA WITHIN SEVENTY-FIVE MILES OF CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 63-9-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1965, Section 1. Chapter 292, Section 2, as amended) is amended to read:

**"63-9-2.** DEFINITIONS. -- As used in the Telephone and Telegraph Company Certification Act:

"commission" means the state corporation commission;

"telephone company" means a company, corporation, partnership, individual or others, not engaged solely in interstate business, furnishing mobile telephone service or radio paging;

C. "public utility telephone service" means making
and offering mobile telephone or radio paging service to or fo
the public generally and being ready, willing and able to
furnish such service with adequate equipment; and

- D. "certificated area" means the geographical area [which] that a telephone company is authorized to serve, including any area within a seventy-five mile radius of any municipality within the area having a population of fifteen thousand or more at the last federal decennial census, except and to the extent it is part of the certificated area of another telephone company, by a certificate of public convenience and necessity and which is defined on the map as part of the certificate."
- Section 2. Section 63-9-6 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1965, Chapter 292, Section 6) is amended to read:
  - "63-9-6. ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE--TERRITORY ON MAP. --
- A. After conclusion of a hearing on an application for a certificate of convenience and necessity, the commission shall make and file an order containing its findings of fact and decision. The order shall become operative twenty days after issuance, except as the commission may otherwise provide.
- B. The commission shall grant all certificates as required by Section [4 of this act] 63-9-3 NMSA 1978 and the New Mexico Telecommunications Act.
  - C. [As to all applications other than those based

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upon Section 4 of this act] The commission has the power, after having determined public convenience and necessity, to grant a certificate as applied for or to refuse to grant it or to grant it for the construction or operation of only a portion of the contemplated plant or system or extension [thereof] or for the partial exercise only of the rights and privilege sought and may attach to the exercise of the rights and privilege granted by a certificate such terms and conditions as in its judgment the public convenience and necessity may require.

D. The geographical field or area that a telephone company is authorized and required to serve by a certificate shall be defined on a map [which will] that shall be part of the certificate. The commission shall prescribe the form of the map to be used. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the certificated service area shall include any area within a seventy-five mile radius of any municipality within the area having a population of fifteen thousand or more at the last federal decennial census, except and to the extent it is part of the certificated area of another telephone company."

Section 3. Section 63-9-7 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1965, Chapter 292, Section 7) is amended to read:

"63-9-7. DUTY TO EXERCISE AUTHORITY--DISCONTINUANCE. --

A. Unless exercised within a period designated by the commission, exclusive of any delay due to the order of any court, authority conferred by a certificate of convenience and

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necessity issued by the commission shall be void. The beginning of the construction of a plant or system, in good faith, within the time prescribed by the commission and the prosecution of the same with reasonable diligence in proportion to the magnitude of the undertaking shall constitute an exercise of the authority.

The holder of a certificate shall render continuous and adequate service to the public and shall not discontinue, reduce or impair service to a certificated area or part of a certificated area, including any area within a seventy-five mile radius of any municipality within the area having a population of fifteen thousand or more at the last federal decennial census, except ordinary discontinuance of service for nonpayment of charges, nonuse and similar reasons in the usual course of business, unless and until there [shall] has first [have] been obtained from the commission a certificate that neither the present nor future public convenience and necessity will be adversely affected thereby; except that the commission may, upon appropriate request being made, authorize temporary or emergency discontinuance, reduction or impairment of service without regard to the provisions of this section; provided, however, that nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring a certificate from the commission for any installation, replacement or other changes in plant, operation or equipment [which] that will not impair the adequacy or quality of service provided."

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