# BINGHAM

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March 29, 2013

Via E-Filing

David Danner, Executive Secretary Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive Olympia, WA 98504-7250 records@wutc.wa.gov

# Re: Notification of TNCI Operating Company LLC ("TNCI-OpCo") and Trans National Communications International, Inc. (Debtor-In-Possession) ("TNCI-DIP") Regarding the Acquisition by TNCI-OpCo of the Customers and Certain Assets of TNCI-DIP

Dear Mr. Danner:

Pursuant to WAC 480-120-147, TNCI Operating Company LLC ("TNCI-OpCo") and Trans National Communications International, Inc. (Debtor-In-Possession) ("TNCI-DIP") (together, the "Parties") notify the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission ("Commission") that TNCI-OpCo intends to acquire the customers (including the customers' contracts) and certain assets<sup>1</sup> of TNCI-DIP through a sale pursuant to Section 363 of the United States Bankruptcy Code (the "Transaction").<sup>2</sup> As a result of the Transaction, TNCI-DIP's customers will be transferred to TNCI-OpCo, which will become the service provider for those customers. As described below, the Transaction will be virtually transparent to customers of TNCI-DIP in terms of the services that those customers receive and the rates and terms of those services -- even though structured as a Section 363 asset purchase under the Bankruptcy Code, the Transaction will appear to customers and the public more like a transfer of control since TNCI-OpCo will have the same "TNCI" name with which customers are familiar, will maintain the same rates and terms of service, and will share many of the same customer service, technical, operational and managerial personnel as TNCI-DIP.

It is the Parties' understanding that prior Commission action is not required for the Parties to complete the Transaction. The Parties, therefore, provide this letter for informational purposes only.

<sup>1</sup> The Parties note that TNCI-DIP does not own any physical assets (facilities, switches or other equipment) located in Washington that are used or useful in the provision of intrastate telecommunications service.

<sup>2</sup> In re Trans National Communications International, Inc., Chapter 11, Case No. 11-19595-WCH, U.S. Bankr. Court (E.D. Mass.).

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In support of this filing, the Parties provide the following information:

#### **Introduction**

On October 9, 2011, Trans National Communications International, Inc. filed a voluntary petition for relief under Chapter 11 of Title 11, U.S.C. §§ 101 et seq., as amended, in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Massachusetts (the "Bankruptcy Court"). Throughout the proceeding, TNCI-DIP has continued to operate its business and provide telecommunications services to its customers. The Bankruptcy Court approved the Transaction on March 13, 2013. The Agreement (as defined below) and Sale Order provide for an Initial Closing following receipt of approvals from the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC"), and for additional closings at approximately 45-day intervals until the Final Closing, which will occur on or before the 180th day following the Initial Closing. At each closing, TNCI-DIP will assign to TNCI-OpCo those assets and customers for which applicable state governmental approvals have been obtained in order to complete the assignment. The Initial Closing is currently scheduled to occur on April 30, 2013, at which time the Parties plan to transfer TNCI-DIP's Washington customers and assets, if any, to TNCI-OpCo so that they can benefit from being served by a financially stable telecommunications provider.

## **Description of the Parties**

## A. TNCI Operating Company LLC

TNCI-OpCo is a newly formed Delaware limited liability company with principal offices located at 114 E. Haley Street, Suite A, Santa Barbara, California 93101. TNCI-OpCo is a wholly owned subsidiary of TNCI Holdings LLC ("TNCI Holdings"), a Delaware limited liability company. TNCI Holdings is wholly owned by investment funds managed by Garrison Investment Group (collectively, the "Garrison Group"), a leading middle market investor.

TNCI-OpCo does not currently provide telecommunications services. Accordingly, TNCI-OpCo is seeking the necessary authority to enable it to continue to provide the same services as TNCI-DIP's customers currently receive from TNCI-DIP. In Washington, TNCI-OpCo filed a registration as a competitive telecommunications provider in Docket No. UT-130432, which is scheduled to be approved on April 26, 2013. TNCI-OpCo is managed by individuals with significant experience in the telecommunications industry and will share many of the same customer service, technical, operational and managerial personnel as TNCI-DIP. Further, TNCI-OpCo has been funded by Garrison Group. TNCI-OpCo, therefore, has the managerial, technical and financial qualifications to provide high quality telecommunications services to the customers of TNCI-DIP.

### B. Trans National Communications International, Inc. (Debtor-In-Possession)

TNCI-DIP is a Delaware corporation with a principal business address at 2 Charlesgate West, Boston, Massachusetts 02215. TNCI-DIP offers an array of communications services including local and long distance service, audio/web conferencing, dedicated Internet Protocol ("IP")-enabled, integrated voice and data services, private line, frame relay, and enhanced network solutions. TNCI-DIP only provides service to business and enterprise customers.

In Washington, TNCI-DIP is authorized to provide intrastate telecommunications services pursuant to its registration as a telecommunications company with competitive classification granted in Docket No. UT-991370. TNCI-DIP is also authorized to provide intrastate telecommunications services in all of the contiguous United States, Hawaii and the District of Columbia. TNCI-DIP is authorized by the FCC to provide interstate and international telecommunications services.

#### **Contacts**

Questions or any correspondence, orders, or other materials pertaining to this filing should be directed to the following.

For TNCI-OpCo:

Jean L. Kiddoo Brett P. Ferenchak Bingham McCutchen LLP 2020 K Street, N.W., Suite 1100 Washington, DC 20006-1806 202-373-6000 (tel) 202-373-6001 (fax) jean.kiddoo@bingham.com brett.ferenchak@bingham.com

#### For TNCI-DIP:

Andrew Isar Millar Isar Inc. 4423 Point Fosdick Drive, N.W. Suite 306 Gig Harbor, WA 98335 253-851-6700 (tel) 866-474-3630 (fax) aisar@millarisar.com

#### With a copy to:

Jeff Compton CEO/President TNCI Operating Company LLC 114 E. Haley Street, Suite A Santa Barbara, CA 93101 jcompton@bluecasa.com

#### With a copy to:

Brian Twomey, President Trans National Communications International, Inc. 2 Charlesgate West Boston, MA 02215 btwomey@TNCII.com

#### **Description of the Transaction**

Pursuant to an Asset Purchase Agreement, dated as of January 31, 2013 (the "Agreement"), TNCI-OpCo will acquire certain of the assets of TNCI-DIP, including TNCI-DIP's customer accounts and contracts, telecommunications equipment, and, to the extent permitted under applicable law and regulations, certificates, licenses, registrations or other authorizations to provide intrastate, interstate, and international telecommunications services. The Bankruptcy Court approved the Agreement and the Transaction contemplated thereby on March 13, 2013. The Agreement and Sale Order provide for an Initial Closing following receipt of approvals from the FCC, and for additional closings at approximately 45-day intervals until the Final Closing, which will occur no later than the 180th day following the Initial Closing. At each closing, TNCI-DIP will assign to TNCI-OpCo those customers and assets for which applicable governmental approvals have been obtained in order to complete the assignment.

In the interest of assuring seamless and uninterrupted service, all of the assigned customers will continue to receive service from TNCI-OpCo under the same rates, terms and conditions of services as were previously provided by TNCI-DIP. As noted above, TNCI-DIP provides services only to business and enterprise customers. Its contracts with those customers will be assigned to TNCI-OpCo without any changes in their rates, terms or conditions. TNCI-OpCo is also filing the required registration for the necessary authority to enable it to continue to provide the same services as TNCI-DIP's customers currently receive from TNCI-DIP. Future changes in the rates, terms and conditions of service to the affected customers will be undertaken pursuant to customer contracts and the applicable federal and state notice and tariff requirements.

Accordingly, as noted above, even though structured as a Section 363 asset purchase under the Bankruptcy Code, the Transaction will appear to customers and the public more like a transfer of control since TNCI-OpCo will have the same "TNCI" name with which customers are familiar, will have the same rates and terms of service, and will share many of the same customer service, technical, operational and managerial personnel as TNCI-DIP.

#### **Public Interest Considerations**

The Parties respectfully submit that the proposed Transaction serves the public interest. The Transaction will result in the assignment of TNCI-DIP customers to a financially stable company that will continue to provide telecommunications services to such assigned customers without interruption. TNCI-OpCo's operations will be overseen by a well-qualified management team with substantial telecommunications experience and technical expertise. In addition, the proposed Transaction is structured to assure an orderly transition of customers from TNCI-DIP to TNCI-OpCo. In accordance with the terms of their service contracts and the rules and procedures of the FCC and applicable state(s), including this Commission, customers will be properly notified of the proposed transaction and the change in their telecommunications provider from TNCI-DIP to

TNCI-OpCo. A sample of the notice that is being provided to applicable affected customers at least 30 days prior to their transfer is provided in <u>Exhibit A</u>.

\* \* \* \*

We would appreciate it if you would acknowledge receipt and acceptance of this filing. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jean L. Kiddo Brett P. Ferenchak

Counsel for TNCI Operating Company LLC

# EXHIBIT A

Sample Customer Notice



March 28, 2013

«MailToName» «MailStreet1» «MailStreet2» «MailCity», «MailState» «MailZip»-«MailZipPlus4»

Regarding Account #«AccountNumber» / «AccountName»

Dear Valued Customer:

Great news! TNCI Operating Company LLC ("TNCI") has reached an agreement with Trans National Communications International, Inc. to acquire its business, including your account. The new TNCI will do business under the familiar "TNCI" name and will assure that you continue to receive the same great service and dedication to your telecommunications needs.

Please rest assured that the transaction <u>will not affect the services you currently receive</u>. You will continue to receive services with the same rates, features, terms and conditions as you currently enjoy. Any changes to your service following the transaction will be made in compliance with your contract, service terms and applicable federal and state regulatory requirements. TNCI will automatically become your telecommunications provider on or after May 1, 2013. (The specific date(s) of the transfer of your interstate and intrastate telephone services may differ somewhat depending upon when we receive the applicable federal and state regulatory approvals.)

This change will be completely seamless for you and you do not need to do anything in order for it to occur -- TNCI will take care of all of the details and TNCI will be responsible for any change fees associated with transferring your account to the new TNCI. However, it is important that you be aware of the following information. You are responsible for continued payment of your monthly recurring and usage charges throughout this period. Unless you have made arrangements on your own to switch your telephone service to a different telephone company prior to the date that your services are transferred to TNCI, your account will automatically be transferred and your service contract assigned to TNCI.<sup>1</sup> In addition, any deposit or prepayment you have paid, if any, will be transferred with your account to TNCI. Although subject to the terms of your current contract you have the option to select another telephone carrier, we value your business and we hope that TNCI may continue to serve you. If you should choose another telephone provider you will need to contact that carrier directly to arrange for the change prior to the transfer of your services to TNCI and also provide TNCI with notice per existing service terms. We note that it can take several weeks for a new carrier to make the switch and you may also incur service initiation fees from that provider such as service order, installation and other similar charges associated with establishing a new service account.

Our mission is to provide superior products and services to our customers. We want to thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions regarding your current services or would like more information about the transaction, please call our customer service department toll-free at 800-800-8400, which will remain the same following the transfer of your services.

TNCI looks forward to serving you.

Sincerely,

Jeff Compton President & Chief Executive Officer TNCI Operating Company LLC Brian C. Twomey President & Chief Executive Officer Trans National Communications International, Inc.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> If you have previously arranged for a preferred carrier "freeze," TNCI will suspend that freeze in order to make the transfer and reinstate it upon completion of a transfer to TNCI. If you have selected an alternate local telephone provider prior to a transfer to TNCI, you will need to have that provider reinstate your preferred carrier freeze.

# VERIFICATIONS

# VERIFICATION

I, Brian Twomey, state that I am President of Trans National Communications International, Inc. (the "Company"); that I am authorized to make this verification on behalf of the Company; that the foregoing filing was prepared under my direction and supervision; and that, with respect to the Company, the same are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Brian Twomey President Trans National Communications International, Inc.

Subscribed and Sworn to me this 30 Hday of March, 2013.

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 6/28/3

SEAL

# VERIFICATION

I, Jeff Compton, state that I am Chief Executive Officer and President of TNCI Operating Company LLC (the "Company"); that I am authorized to make this verification on behalf of the Company; that the foregoing filing was prepared under my direction and supervision; and that, with respect to the Company, the same are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Jeff Compton

Chief Executive Officer and President TNCI Operating Company LLC

Subscribed and Sworn to me this  $20^{\circ}$  day of March, 2013.

Notary Public 6/28/13

My Commission Expires:

SEAL