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US SONET LLC)
)
Application for State-Issued Authorization to Provide)
Video Service Pursuant to Section 401 of the Cable)
and Video Competition Law of 2007)

CHIEF CLERK'S OFFICE
Docket No. 14-0450

**APPLICATION FOR STATE-ISSUED
AUTHORIZATION TO PROVIDE VIDEO SERVICE**

Pursuant to Section 401 of the Cable and Video Competition Law of 2007 (the "Law") (220 ILCS 5/21-100, et seq.), US SONET LLC ("SONET" or "Applicant") hereby applies for state-issued authority to use, occupy, and construct facilities in the public right-of-way for the delivery of Video Service and for State issued authority to provide Video services in the Village of Odin and Village of Sandoval (the "service area footprint").

In support of this Application, SONET submits the attached Affidavit of John D. Andrews, President, and an officer of SONET ("Affidavit"). Mr. Andrews' Affidavit contains the affirmations and information required by subsection 401 (b) of the Law (220 ILCS 5/21-401 (b)).

I. ELIGIBILITY

I. Applicant seeks to provide Video service, as defined in Section 201(e) of the Law (220 ILCS 5/21-201 (e)), in Illinois, in the service area footprint, as defined in Section 201(j) of the Law (220 ILCS 5/21-201 (j)), and as identified in this application, and seeks to obtain State-issued authority pursuant to Section 401 of the Law (220 ILCS 5/21-401).

2. For purposes of this Application, applicant is **not** an "incumbent cable operator," within the meaning of Section 21-201 (m) of the Law (220 ILCS 5/21-201 (m)) with respect to the service area footprint.

3. As shown in Section II and in the attached Affidavit, Applicant satisfies the requirements of Section 401 (b) of the Law (220 ILCS 5/21-401 (b)) and, therefore, is eligible to obtain a State-issued authorization consistent with the terms and scope of this Application, to be issued by the Commission within thirty (30) days of this submission. If the Commission does not notify the Applicant regarding completeness of this Application and the attached affidavit or issue service authorization within the time periods required under Section 401 (d), the service authorization requested in this Application shall be issued by operation of law upon the expiration of the thirtieth (30th) day of this submission as provided in Section 401 (d)(2) of the Law (220 ILCS 5/21-401 (d)(2)).

II. COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 401 (b) OF THE LAW

4. SONET has filed with the FCC all required forms and agrees to comply with all applicable federal and State statutes and regulations. (220 ILCS 5/21- 401 (b)(2)). See Affidavit ¶ 5.

5. SONET agrees to comply with all applicable local units of government regulations. (220 ILCS 5/21-401 (b)(3)). See Affidavit ¶ 6.

6. SONET will continue to offer cable service in the City of Salem, which is the area covered by the franchise agreement noted in ¶ 2 above) The State issued franchise agreement will allow US SONET in the Village of Odin and Village of Sandoval, to provide Video service to all residences within the village boundaries that meet a fiscal and technical feasibility of at least 5 customers within a half mile from the trunk or distribution cable which SONET would extend request service.

7. The United States Census Bureau's most recent estimate of the number of low income households, as defined in Section 201 (p) of the Law (220 ILCS 5/21-201 (p)), located within the service area footprint is 411 households (of 860 households) or 47.8%. (220 ILCS 5/21-401 (b)(4))

Village of Odin low income households is: 144 or 35.2%
Village of Sandoval low income households is: 267 or 61.3%.

8. The location of SONET's principal place of business within the State is 123 East Main Street, Salem, IL 62881. The telephone number for SONET's principal place of business is (618) 548-6909. John D. Andrews, President, and an officer of SONET, is responsible for communications concerning this Application and the services to be offered pursuant to this Application. Applicant's legal name is US SONET LLC and it will do business under the name "SONET." (220 ILCS 5121-401(b)(5)). See Affidavit iMf 10-12.

Biographical information for key personnel responsible for managing SONET's local cable service operations and network is as follows:

John D. Andrews

President, Co-Founder

11 years of experience in the cable industry and 25 years of experience in the telecommunication and Internet industry. Mr. Andrews co-founded US SONET INC (and LIGHTSPEED TELECOM LLC) in 2000. Later in 2003, Mr. Andrews reformed the company as US SONET LLC and built a FTTH (Fiber To The Home) network in Salem Illinois offering cableTV & Internet service. LIGHTSPEED TELECOM LLC provides telephone services over the FTTH network in Salem. Twelve years prior, Mr. Andrews co-founded a super regional ISP (Internet Service Provider) here in Illinois. Co-founded and built one of the earliest ISPs in Illinois and first FTTH overbuild only (non-incumbent). Lifelong resident of Illinois.

Sue Andrews

Vice President, Co-Founder

11 years of experience in the cable industry. Mrs. Andrews co-founded US SONET LLC (and LIGHTSPEED TELECOM LLC) in 2000. Over 40 years experience in telecommunications industry. Mrs. Andrews worked 26 years at Western Union, serving from an operator position up to regional President. Sue Andrews was responsible for first remote use of credit cards, first customer use of wire transfers and

development/implementation of the routing system still being used by Western Union today. Lifelong resident of Illinois.

Rod Young

Engineer

11 years of experience in the cable industry. Mr. Young designed and built the three cable head-ends for US SONET in Salem currently serving the Salem and Iuka markets. He also help engineer, design and build the FTTH network in Salem. Over 30 years of telecommunication experience.

Ryan Resch

Engineer

Over 10 years of experience taking on the following positions as an installation technician, network build, lead splice and network technician, network engineer, and telecommunications engineer.

9. As indicated by the attached Certificate of Service, SONET is current with the filing of this Application, delivered a copy of the Application to the local unit of government included in the service area footprint. See Affidavit ¶ 13.

10. As noted in ¶ 2 above, SONET already offers cable service in the contiguous area directly east of Odin/Sandoval build. These areas are contiguous to our current footprint in Salem. Salem and Iuka will continue without interruption upon receipt of a state-issued authorization. (220 ILCS 5/21-401(b)(7)). See Affidavit ¶ 14. Pursuant to Section 801(a) of the Law (220 ILCS 5/21-801(a)), SONET, concurrently with this filing, is giving notice to the local units of government included in the service area footprint that SONET will offer service within the boundaries of that local unit of government under a state-issued authorization.

11. SONET possesses and has access to the financial, managerial, technical and legal qualifications necessary to construct and operate the proposed system for providing Video service, and to promptly repair any damages to the public right-of-way caused by Applicant, and to pay for removal of its facilities. (220 ILCS 5/21- 40 I(b)(8)). See Affidavit ¶ 15. Exhibit I

is provided as evidence of SONET's managerial, and technical qualifications. US SONET LLC has a wholly-owned subsidiary LIGHTSPEED TELECOM LLC that are included in our financials. In the US SONET LLC financials, are a current balance sheet and current income statement.

12. US SONET LLC is a video and cable operator based in Salem Illinois and focused on serving the smaller cities and villages in Illinois. As of December 31, 2013, SONET's cable systems passed an estimated 3,000 homes, primarily in the communities of Salem and Iuka Illinois serving approximately 1,100 video customers and 1,200 high-speed data ("HSD") customers (LIGHTSPEED TELECOM LLC serves approximately 1,000 phone customers). SONET would finance any construction, repair or removal of its system/facilities serving the Village of Odin and Village of Sandoval from existing lines of credit and cash flows resulting from ongoing operations, the soundness of which are attested to by the financials supplied with this application. US SONET LLC has all the finance required to build out to the Village of Odin and Village of Sandoval.

13. This application includes the general standards related to customer service that SONET will adhere to, as required by 220 ILCS 5/21-401(b) and FCC rules (47 C.F.R. 76.309). See Affidavit ¶ 16 and Exhibits 2 and 3, which include a statement of SONET's customer service standard policies. As part of its customer service standards, SONET agree to comply with these provisions of 220 ILCS 5/22-501:

(a) To the extent consistent with federal law, SONET shall offer the lowest-cost basic cable or video service as a stand-alone service to residential customers at reasonable rates. SONET shall not require the subscription to any service other than the lowest-cost basic service or to any telecommunications or information service, as a condition of access to cable or video service, including programming offered on a per channel or per program basis. SONET shall not discriminate between subscribers to the lowest-cost basic service, subscribers to other cable services or video services, and other subscribers with regard to the rates charged for cable or video programming offered on a per channel or per program basis.

(b) To the extent consistent with federal law, SONET shall ensure that charges for changes in the subscriber's selection of services or equipment shall be based on the cost of such change and shall not exceed nominal amounts when the system's configuration permits changes in service tier selection to be effected solely by coded entry on a computer terminal or by other similar simple method.

(c) To the extent consistent with federal law, SONET shall have a rate structure for the provision of cable or video service that is uniform throughout the area within the boundaries of the local government unit. This subsection is not intended to prohibit bulk discounts to multiple dwelling units or to prohibit reasonable discounts to senior citizens or other economically disadvantaged group.

(d) To the extent consistent with federal law, SONET shall not charge a subscriber for any service or equipment that the subscriber has not affirmatively requested by name. For purposes of this subsection, a subscriber's failure to refuse SONET's proposal to provide service or equipment shall not be deemed to be an affirmative request for such service or equipment.

WHEREFORE, SONET respectfully requests that a State-issued authorization be issued, pursuant to and consistent with Sections 401(d) through (h) of the Law that authorizes SONET to use, occupy, and construct facilities in the public rights-of-way for the delivery of Video service, and to provide Video service, in the service area footprint, and that such State-issued authorization include all of the following:

(1) A grant of authority to provide Video service in the service area footprint as requested in this Application, subject to the laws of this State and the ordinances, rules and regulations of the local government unit.

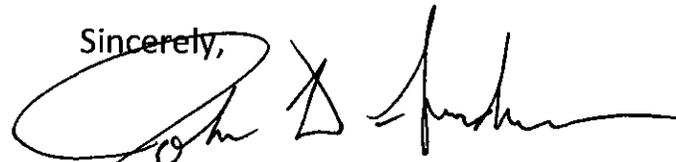
(2) A grant of authority to use, occupy, and construct facilities in the public rights-of-way for the delivery of Video service in the service area footprint, subject to the laws of this State and the ordinances, rules and regulations of the local government unit.

(3) A statement that the grant of authority is subject to lawful operation of the Video service by the Applicant, its affiliated entities or its successors-in-interest.

REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT

The Petitioner fears that information would be used by its competitors in a manner that would prove unfair in the marketplace. This information will give an unfair advantage to the competitors of the Petitioner and would substantially harm business operations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John D. Andrews', with a large, stylized initial 'J' and 'A'.

John D. Andrews, President

US SONET LLC

123 East Main Street

Salem, IL 62881

(618) 548-6909

Date: June 19, 2014

US SONET LLC)
)
Application for State-Issued Authorization to Provide) **Docket No. ____**
Video Service Pursuant to Section 401 of the Cable)
and Video Competition Law of 2007)

AFFIDAVIT OF JOHN D. ANDREWS

I, John D. Andrews, being placed under affirmation, solemnly, sincerely, and truly declare and affirm the following:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. I am currently President of US SONET LLC ("Applicant" or "SONET"). As President I oversee SONET's regulatory, government and external affairs in Illinois. SONET is focused on being a leading video operator focused on serving the smaller cities and villages in the United States, with a significant customer concentration in Salem Illinois and luka Illinois. As of December 31, 2013, SONET's cable systems passed an estimated 3,000 homes, , primarily in the communities of Salem and luka Illinois serving approximately 1,100 video customers and 1,200 high-speed data ("HSD") customers (LIGHTSPEED TELECOM LLC serves approximately 1,000 phone customers).

2. The purpose of my Affidavit is to provide support for SONET's Application for State-issued authorization to provide Video services pursuant to Section 401 of the Cable and Video Competition Law of 2007 (the "Law") (220 ILCS 5/21-401) (the "Application"). For purposes of its Application, SONET is not an "incumbent cable operator," within the footprint herein and the meaning of Section 201 (m) of the Law (220 ILCS 5/21-201(m)) and is eligible to seek State-issued authorization pursuant to 301 (b) of the Law (220 ILCS 5/21-301(b)).

3. This Affidavit and supporting Exhibits I through 3 provide the affirmations and information required by Section 401 (b) of the Law (220 ILCS 5/21- 401 (b)).

4. I have knowledge of the facts stated in this Affidavit and accompanying supporting Exhibits I through 3. I am competent to testify to them and I have authority to make this Affidavit on behalf of and to bind SONET.

II. COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 401(b) OF THE LAW

A. SECTION 401 (b)(1)

5. SONET has timely filed with the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") all forms required by that agency in advance of offering Video service within the service area footprint (220 ILCS 5/21-401 (b)(1)), including applicable registration statement and frequency notification.

B. SECTION 401(b)(2)

6. SONET agrees to comply with all applicable federal and state statutes and regulations. (220 ILCS 5/21-401 (b)(2)).

C. SECTION 401 (b)(3)

7. SONET agrees to comply with all applicable local unit of government regulations. (220 ILCS 5/21-401 (b)(3)).

D. SECTION 401(b)(4)

8. The local unit of government describing where cable service will be offered by SONET during the term of this requested State-issued authorization is the Village of Odin and Village of Sandoval (the "service area footprint").

9. The United States Census Bureau's most recent estimate of the number of low income households, as defined in Section 201 (p) of the Law (220 ILCS 5/21- ZO1 (p)), located within the Village of Odin and Village of Sandoval is 411 households (of 860 households) or 47.8%. (220 ILCS 5/21-401 (b)(4))

Village of Odin low income households is 144 or 35.2%
Village of Sandoval low income households is 267 or 61.3%.

E. SECTION 401(b) (5)

10. The location of SONET's principal place of business within the State of Illinois is 123 East Main Street, Salem Illinois 62881.. The telephone number for SONET's principal place of business is (618) 548-6909. (220 ILCS 5/21-401 (b)(5)).

11. SONET's principal executive officer responsible for communications concerning this Application and the services to be offered pursuant to this Application is John D. Andrews, President. (220 ILCS 5/21-401 (b)(5)). Biographical information for key personnel responsible for managing SONET's local Video service operations and network is included in ¶ 9 of the application.

12. Applicant's legal name is US SONET LLC. Applicant will not use an assumed name and will provide Video services in Illinois as SONET. (220 ILCS 5/21-401(b)(5)).

F. SECTION 401 (b) (6)

13. As indicated by the attached Certificate of Service, US SONET has, concurrent with the filing of this application, delivered a copy of this Application to the local units of government in the service area footprint. (220 ILCS 5/21-401(b)(6)).

G. SECTION 401(b) (7)

14. SONET does not currently offer Video service in the service area footprint. SONET plans to provide video services upon receipt of a state-issued authorization. (220 ILCS 5/21-401 (b)(7)). Pursuant to Section 801 (a) of the Law (220 ILCS 5/21-801 (a)), SONET, concurrently with this filing has provided notice to the local unit of government included in the service area footprint before SONET offer service within the boundaries of that local unit of government under a state-issued authorization.

H. SECTION 401(b)

15. SONET possesses and has access to the financial, managerial, legal and technical qualifications necessary to construct and operate the proposed system for providing Video service, and to promptly repair any damages to the public right-of-way caused by Applicant, and to pay for removal of its facilities (220 ILCS 5/2 I-401 (b)). At the time SONET seeks to use the public rights-of-way to construct, operate, repair or remove its facilities in the right-of-way under the jurisdiction of either the State of Illinois and/or a local unit of government, SONET will post a bond, produce a certificate of insurance or a certificate of self-insurance, or otherwise demonstrate to the requesting entity SONET's financial responsibility to use such public right-of-way, if so required by the State of Illinois or the local unit of government.

I. SECTION 401(b)

16. SONET will adhere to the standards related to customer service, as required by 220 ILCS 5/22-501 and FCC rules (47 C.F.R. 76.309), as are attached hereto as Exhibits 2 and 3. (220 ILCS 5/21-401(b)).

III. AFFIRMATION

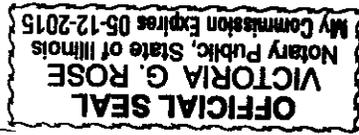
I solemnly, sincerely, and truly declare and affirm that all of the foregoing statements and representations made in this Affidavit and accompanying Exhibits I through 3 are true and correct.



John D. Andrews
President

Subscribed and sworn to before me
This 30th day of June, 2014

NOTARY PUBLIC: 



My Commission Expires:
State of FL, County of Marion



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that a copy of the public version of the Application has concurrently been delivered by first class mail to the local unit of government identified within the Application as the service area footprint.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Andrews". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "A".

John D. Andrews

US SONET LLC, President

LIGHTSPEED TELECOM LLC, President

123 East Main Street

Salem, IL 62881

(618) 548-6909

Date: June 19, 2014