

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen, Executive Director South Dakota Public Utilities Commission 500 East Capitol Avenue Capitol Building, 1st Floor Pierre, SD 57501

RE:

Notice of the Transfer of Customers by Teleconnect Long Distance Services and Systems Company and MCI Communications Services, Inc. d/b/a Verizon Business Services pursuant to ARSD 20:10:34:02.02

# Dear Mr. Van Gerpen:

Pursuant to ARSD 20:10:34:02.02, enclosed for filing please find the original copy of the above referenced filing submitted on behalf of Teleconnect Long Distance Services and Systems Company and MCI Communications Services, Inc. d/b/a Verizon Business Services.

This filing is submitted through the Commission's electronic filing system.

Any questions you may have regarding this filing should be directed to my attention at 407-740-3004 or via email to rnorton@tminc.com. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Consultant to Verizon Business

cc: Gail Garey (via email) - Verizon Business

file: Verizon Business - South Dakota

tms: SDx1401

Enclosures RN/lm

# BEFORE THE SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

### NOTICE OF THE TRANSFER OF CUSTOMERS

of

#### TELECONNECT LONG DISTANCE SERVICES AND SYSTEMS COMPANY

to

## MCI COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, INC. D/B/A VERIZON BUSINESS SERVICES

Pursuant to ARSD 20:10:34:02.02, Teleconnect Long Distance Services and Systems Company ("Teleconnect") and MCI Communications Services, Inc. d/b/a Verizon Business Services ("MCI") hereby notify the Commission of the planned transfer of customers from Teleconnect to its affiliate, MCI. Following the transfer, Teleconnect will no longer operate. A request to cancel its authority will be filed at that time.

This transaction is part of a multi-state effort to consolidate certain Verizon subsidiaries and is therefore an internal corporate reorganization as described below. The Applicants are coordinating proceedings in multiple states with an expected implementation date for South Dakota customers on or after October 1, 2014.

### I. THE PARTIES

Teleconnect was incorporated under the laws of the State of Iowa on November 20, 1986. Its principal office is located in Basking Ridge, New Jersey. Teleconnect is ultimately owned and controlled by Verizon Communications Inc., a publicly traded corporation with subsidiaries in the United States and other countries providing telecommunications and other services. Teleconnect provides resold long distance service including toll-free and calling card services in South Dakota. The company also provides 10 10 dial around and operator services for casual calling customers.

MCI was incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware on January 3, 1992. Its principal offices are also located in Basking Ridge, New Jersey. The company that is now MCI Communications Services, Inc. d/b/a Verizon Business Services was originally authorized to offer intrastate telecommunications services by order issued October 9, 1997 in Docket No. TC 97-110. MCI currently offers interexchange services in South Dakota. MCI is also ultimately owned and controlled by Verizon Communications Inc.

### II. THE TRANSACTION

Teleconnect's customers will be transferred to MCI beginning on or after October 1, 2014. Following the transaction, these customers will be served by MCI. Teleconnect will cease to operate and a request to cancel its authority will be filed with the Commission at that time.

### III. CUSTOMER IMPACT

The transition to MCI will be virtually transparent to most customers. Teleconnect's customers will not incur any charges as a result of the change in service provider from Teleconnect to MCI, because if the customer's local exchange carrier assesses a Preferred Interexchange Carrier (PIC) change charge, MCI will issue a credit no less than the amount of such charge on or before the next billing cycle. For the most part, there will be no changes to rates, terms or conditions of service. In a certain few situations, it will not be possible to move the customer's Teleconnect rate plan to the MCI billing system. In those cases, customers will be offered a similar rate plan. Finally, following the transfer, Teleconnect customers who are solely calling card customers (i.e., with no other Teleconnect service) will no longer be able to use those cards.

Written notice of the proposed transfer was provided to all Teleconnect customers on or about August 1, 2014. The customer notifications advised customers of the following:

- (1) the pending change of their interexchange service carrier selection to MCI;
- (2) there will be no impact on their service (except as otherwise specified in the notice);
- (3a) for most customers, there will be no change to rates, terms or conditions of service;
- (3b) for the few whose service cannot be moved over to the MCI billing platform, a description and detail of their proposed new service and rates;
- (4) there will be no charges associated with the change to MCI as their interexchange carrier; and
- (5) they have the option to select a different service provider if they prefer, with no penalty from Teleconnect.

The notifications included the toll free numbers that customers may call for more information before and after the transaction. Copies of the customer notifications, which contain the information required by ARSD 20:10:34:02.02(3)(a) through (g), are attached as Exhibit A. Teleconnect and MCI therefore certify that they have complied with the advance customer notice requirements outlined in ARSD 20:10:34:02.02(3), as required by ARSD 20:10:34:02.02(1).

# IV. CONTACT INFORMATION

Correspondence with regard to this filing should be sent to:

Robin Norton Consultant to MCI and Teleconnect Technologies Management, Inc. 2600 Maitland Center Parkway, Suite 300 Maitland, FL 32751

Telephone: 407-740-3004 Facsimile: 407-740-0613

Email: <u>Rnorton@tminc.com</u>

# with a copy sent to:

Gail Garey Senior Consultant MCI Communications Services, Inc. d/b/a Verizon Business Services 6415-6455 Business Center Drive Highlands Ranch, CO 80130

Telephone: 303-305-1563

Email: <u>Gail.garey@verizon.com</u>

# STATE OF VIRGINIA COUNTY OF LOUDON

# **VERIFICATION**

I, Caren Forsten, hereby declare, under penalty of perjury, that I am employed by Verizon Communications Inc., which is the ultimate parent and owner of both Teleconnect Long Distance Services and Systems Company and MCI Communications Services, Inc. d/b/a Verizon Business Services; that I have responsibility for directing the consumer and small business customer operations of Teleconnect and MCI; that I am authorized to make this verification on behalf of both named companies; that I have read the foregoing; and that the facts stated therein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Caren Forsten, Director

Caren Forst

Verizon Communications Inc., parent and ultimate owner of

Teleconnect Long Distance Services and Systems Company

MCI Communications Services, Inc. d/b/a Verizon Business Services

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 22 day of Bugust, 2014

**Notary Public** 

My Commission expires:

SANTOSH KAUNDAL Notary Public Commonwealth of Virginia 262587

My Commission Frances May 31, 2015

# Teleconnect Long Distance Services and Systems Company and

MCI Communications Services, Inc. d/b/a Verizon Business Services

# Exhibit A

**Customer Notifications** 

Telecom\*USA P.O. Box 31301 Salt Lake City, UT 84130-1301

MCI P.O. Box 31303 Salt Lake City, UT 84130-1303





August 1, 2014



0001 0000 00001 01 MB 0.435

# IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING A CHANGE IN YOUR LONG DISTANCE SERVICE

Dear ,

This letter is to inform you of the forthcoming transfer of your long distance service from Teleconnect Long Distance Services & Systems Company doing business as Telecom\*USA to MCI Communications Services, Inc. doing business as Verizon Business Services (MCI) on or after **September 1, 2014** (**Transfer Date 1**). Following the transfer, MCI will assume responsibility for all services previously provided to you by Telecom\*USA.

Please rest assured there will be no interruption to your services. You will retain your current service with no changes to rates, features, or terms and conditions. You will not incur charges for the transfer of your service(s) to MCI. No action is required from you to continue your service(s) with MCI.

You have the right to select a different carrier for your long distance service(s). If you do not wish to receive service from MCI, you should select an alternate carrier directly (or through your local carrier) and make arrangements to transfer your service to the alternate carrier before **September 1, 2014**. If you choose to switch to an alternate carrier, you may incur a fee from that alternate carrier for the transfer of your services. There is no penalty from Telecom\*USA for selecting a different carrier prior to the Transfer Date.

If you have a long distance preferred carrier freeze, Telecom\*USA will contact your local service provider to transition your service to MCI. If you want to change to another carrier, you must first contact your local service provider to lift the preferred carrier freeze. Once your service has been transferred to MCI or another carrier, you can contact your local service provider to re-establish the freeze.

Please note that if you are a customer of Telecom\*USA on the Transfer Date, your account will automatically be transferred to MCI.

After your service has been transitioned to MCI, you will be notified of any future changes to these rates, terms and conditions on your monthly invoice, by a post card or letter, by our calling and speaking to you, leaving a message with you, by e-mail, with your consent, or publication on the Company's website.

If you have any questions about this transition or about your service or billing, you may seek assistance as follows:

1 Transfer Date is subject to regulatory approval in certain states.

(Continued on other side)

For inquiries or complaints prior to the Transfer Date, you may contact a Telecom\*USA customer service representative at 1-800-777-2321.

For inquiries or complaints after the Transfer Date, you may contact an MCI customer service representative at 1-800-444-3333.

## **About MCI**

MCI is affiliated with Telecom\*USA. Both companies are ultimately owned and controlled by Verizon Communications Inc., a publicly traded company.

We thank you for your business and look forward to providing you with quality service.

Sincerely,

Telecom\*USA MCI Telecom\*USA P.O. Box 31301 Salt Lake City, UT 84130-1301

MCI P.O. Box 31303 Sait Lake City, UT 84130-1303





August 1, 2014



0001 0001 00001 01 SP 0.480

# IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING A CHANGE IN YOUR LONG DISTANCE SERVICE

Dear ,

This letter is to inform you of the forthcoming transfer of your long distance service from Teleconnect Long Distance Services & Systems Company doing business as Telecom\*USA to MCI Communications Services, Inc. doing business as Verizon Business Services (MCI) on or after **September 1, 2014** (**Transfer Date 1**). Following the transfer, MCI will assume responsibility for all services previously provided to you by Telecom\*USA.

Please rest assured there will no interruption to your services. Your long distance service will not be disrupted in any way by this change. However, your billing will move to a newer, easier-to-read format, and your pricing and services will change as outlined below. No action is required from you to continue your service(s) with MCI.

You will have a new account with MCI and your new monthly bill will come from MCI. Your pricing will change to the MCI Nationwide rate plan which is \$7.95 per month and offers \$0.06 cents per minute for state-to-state long distance, instate rates vary by state.

The minimum usage fee is \$9.99 per month. So in any given month, if your usage charges are less than \$9.99, you will be billed the difference between the usage charges and the minimum fee so that your monthly charges equal a minimum of \$9.99. The \$7.95 MCI Nationwide monthly service fee does contribute to the \$9.99 minimum. Details of your new rate plan are available at: http://consumer.mci.com/mci\_service\_agreement/res\_domestic\_services\_current\_plans.jsp. You will not incur any charges for the automatic transfer to MCI, but, additional taxes and surcharges may apply, including a Paper Billing Fee of \$1.99 per account.

Please make all future payments to your new account using the remit-to address shown on your new MCI invoice. You will receive a final bill from Telecom\*USA and will be responsible for any outstanding charges.

1 Transfer Date is subject to regulatory approval in certain states.

(Continued on other side)

You have the right to select a different carrier for your long distance service(s). If you do not wish to receive service from MCI, you should select an alternate carrier directly (or through your local carrier) and make arrangements to transfer your service to the alternate carrier before **September 1, 2014**. If you choose to switch to an alternate carrier, you may incur a fee from that alternate carrier for the transfer of your services. There is no penalty from Telecom\*USA for selecting a different carrier prior to the Transfer Date.

If you have a long distance preferred carrier freeze, Telecom\*USA will contact your local service provider to transition your service to MCI. If you want to change to another carrier, you must first contact your local service provider to lift the preferred carrier freeze. Once your service has been transferred to MCI or another carrier, you can contact your local service provider to re-establish the freeze.

Please note that if you are a customer of Telecom\*USA on the Transfer Date, your account will automatically be transferred to MCI.

After your service has been transitioned to MCI, you will be notified in advance of any future changes to these rates, terms and conditions on your monthly invoice, by a post card or letter, by our calling and speaking to you, by leaving a message with you, by e-mail, with your consent, or by publication on the Company's website.

If you have any questions about this transition or about your service or billing, you may seek assistance as follows:

For inquiries or complaints prior to the Transfer Date, you may contact a Telecom\*USA customer service representative at 1-800-777-2321.

For inquiries or complaints after the Transfer Date, you may contact an MCI customer service representative at 1-800-444-3333.

#### About MCI

MCI is affiliated with Telecom\*USA. Both companies are ultimately owned and controlled by Verizon Communications Inc., a publicly traded company.

We thank you for your business and look forward to providing you with quality service.

Sincerely,

Telecom\*USA MCI