

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

<p>IN RE:</p> <p>JORDAN-SOLDIER VALLEY TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC., AND ALPINE COMMUNICATIONS, L.C.</p>	<p>DOCKET NO. SPU-00-6</p>
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**ORDER APPROVING JOINT APPLICATION FOR DISCONTINUANCE OF
SERVICE AND AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF CERTIFICATE**

(Issued August 30, 2000)

On June 6, 2000, Jordan-Soldier Valley Telephone Company, Inc. (Jordan-Soldier Valley), and Alpine Communications, L.C. (Alpine) (collectively, Joint Applicants), filed a joint application pursuant to Iowa Code § 476.20 (1999) for discontinuance of service and Iowa Code § 476.29 for transfer of a certificate. Jordan-Soldier Valley has entered into an asset purchase agreement to acquire the assets of Alpine necessary to provide local exchange service in the Moorhead, Iowa, exchange. The acquisition will result in the discontinuance of service in the Moorhead exchange by Alpine and continuation of the existing service by Jordan-Soldier Valley.

The Joint Applicants ask to have the certificate of public convenience and necessity presently issued to Alpine for service in the Moorhead exchange transferred to Jordan-Soldier Valley. The Joint Applicants further seek Utilities Board (Board) approval of the proposed discontinuance of service by Alpine in the

Moorhead exchange. Alpine will continue to provide service in the Iowa exchanges of McGregor, Garnavillo, Guttenberg, Garber, Elkader, and Elgin.

Alpine is a non rate-regulated local exchange utility currently providing service in seven Iowa exchanges. Jordan-Soldier Valley is a non rate-regulated local exchange utility currently providing local service in the Soldier exchange.

Iowa Code § 476.20 provides in relevant part that a utility shall not discontinue service to a community unless permission to do so is obtained from the Board. Rule 199—7.12(5) states that an application to discontinue service incident to a utility property transfer will be granted "if the board finds the transferee is ready, willing, and able to provide comparable utility service." Finally, Iowa Code § 476.29(3) provides for the transference of a local exchange certificate of public convenience and necessity, subject to the Board's approval pursuant to Iowa Code § 476.20(1).

Jordan-Soldier Valley has provided local exchange telecommunications services to the Soldier exchange since the early 1900's. The Moorhead exchange is located immediately southwest of the Soldier exchange with similar service requirements and characteristics as the Soldier exchange. No objections to the joint application have been filed with the Board.

From the information provided, the Board finds that Jordan-Soldier Valley has demonstrated a history of providing local exchange telecommunications service in compliance with the Board's rules and requirements and that it is ready, willing, and able to provide comparable service in the Moorhead exchange.

The Board approves Alpine's application to discontinue service to the Moorhead exchange, pursuant to 199 IAC 7.12 and Iowa Code § 476.20(1) (1999).

The Board also approves the request to transfer Alpine's certificate to serve the Moorhead exchange to Jordan-Soldier Valley, pursuant to Iowa Code § 476.29(3) (1999).

Jordan-Soldier Valley and Alpine will be required to file new service area boundary maps showing the change of the Moorhead exchange, as well as new tariffs within 30 days of this order. Until those tariffs are approved, service to the Moorhead exchange will be provided by Jordan-Soldier Valley under the Alpine tariff.

In a supplemental filing to the joint application, Jordan-Soldier Valley and Alpine indicated that a waiver of the study area requirements of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will be necessary in connection with this transaction. It has been the FCC's policy not to accept a waiver petition until the state regulatory agency has indicated that it does not object to changes in the study area boundaries. The Board affirmatively states that it does not object to the request that a study area waiver be granted by the FCC.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. The joint application for approval of discontinuance of service and transference of certificate with regard to the Moorhead exchange, filed June 6, 2000, by Jordan-Soldier Valley Telephone Company, Inc., and Alpine Communications, L.C., is approved to be effective upon the issuance of this order.

2. Jordan-Soldier Valley Telephone Company, Inc., is directed to file an exchange boundary map showing the addition of the Moorhead exchange to its territory, new tariffs in its name, and a statement of 2-PIC dialing parity within 30 days of this order.

3. Alpine Communications, L.C., is directed to file an exchange boundary map and a new tariff showing the exclusion of the Moorhead exchange from its territory within 30 days of this order.

4. The Board affirmatively states that it does not object to the request that a study area waiver be granted by the FCC.

5. Amendments to Certificate Nos. 70 and 170 are being issued concurrently with this order.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Allan T. Thoms

/s/ Susan J. Frye

ATTEST:

/s/ Raymond K. Vawter, Jr.
Executive Secretary

/s/ Diane Munns

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 30th day of August, 2000.