

STATE OF IOWA  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE:  RIVER VALLEY TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE AND RUTHVEN TELEPHONE EXCHANGE CO.	DOCKET NO. TCU-06-13
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**ORDER APPROVING JOINT APPLICATION FOR DISCONTINUANCE OF  
SERVICE AND AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF CERTIFICATE**

(Issued December 21, 2006)

On November 30, 2006, River Valley Telecommunications Cooperative (River Valley) and Ruthven Telephone Exchange Co. (Ruthven) filed with the Utilities Board (Board) a joint application for discontinuance of service and transfer of certificate pursuant to Iowa Code §§ 476.20 and 476.29. The filing indicates that River Valley and Ruthven are merging and the merger will result in the discontinuance of service by Ruthven and the assumption and continuance of service by River Valley. The joint applicants request the transfer of Ruthven's certificate to River Valley.

The filing states that Ruthven is a wholly-owned subsidiary of River Valley and is authorized to provide local telephone service in Iowa. The filing also states that River Valley is presently certified to provide local exchange service in Iowa and that it is ready, willing, and able to provide comparable service to Ruthven's customers.

In support of this request, the applicants state that it is in the best interest of both companies to operate as a single entity. In addition, the applicants assert that

there will not be any actual discontinuance of service since River Valley will provide uninterrupted service to Ruthven's customers upon completion of the merger.

River Valley and Ruthven request that Certificate No. 0113, issued to Ruthven on September 29, 1992, be terminated and Certificate No. 0060, issued to River Valley on September 29, 1992, and amended on October 21, 2002, be amended to include the service area originally served by Ruthven. Both River Valley and Ruthven have served proper notice on Ruthven's customers pursuant to 199 IAC 22.23(2)"e" and have informed customers that there will not be a change in the rates, terms, and conditions of service provided to Ruthven's customers.

The Board will approve the joint request of River Valley and Ruthven to amend their certificates. An order canceling Ruthven's certificate (Certificate No. 0113) is being issued concurrently with this order and will become effective upon the withdrawal of Ruthven's existing tariff. Since River Valley is already certificated to provide service in Iowa as shown by its tariffs as currently and subsequently approved, there is no need to transfer Ruthven's certificate to River Valley. River Valley will be required to amend its tariff and maps as necessary to reflect the transfer of service within 30 days of this order.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

1. The joint request filed by River Valley Telecommunications Cooperative and Ruthven Telephone Exchange Co. on November 30, 2006, to amend their certificates of public convenience and necessity is approved.

2. An order canceling Certificate No. 0113, issued to Ruthven Telephone Exchange Co. on September 29, 1992, is being issued concurrently with this order and will become effective upon the withdrawal of its existing tariff.

**UTILITIES BOARD**

/s/ John R. Norris

/s/ Diane Munns

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper  
Executive Secretary

/s/ Curtis W. Stamp

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2006.