

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

PETITION OF CINCINNATI BELL WIRELESS,	)	
LLC FOR RELINQUISHMENT OF ELIGIBLE	)	CASE NO.
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER	)	2014-00140
DESIGNATION	)	

ORDER

On April 25, 2011, the Commission granted the request of Cincinnati Bell Wireless, LLC (“CBW”) for designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”).<sup>1</sup> CBW was authorized to receive low-income support for the purpose of providing Lifeline. On April 15, 2014, CBW petitioned the Commission pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4) for relinquishment of its ETC status in Kentucky.

CBW is a facilities-based wireless provider covering the greater Cincinnati, Ohio, and Dayton, Ohio, metropolitan areas, as well as several counties in northern Kentucky and portions of Indiana. CBW offers both postpaid and prepaid wireless plans. It currently serves approximately 53,000 subscribers in Kentucky, of which about 10 percent subscribe to one of CBW's Lifeline plans that are marketed under the prepaid brand name of i-wireless.<sup>2</sup>

Under 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4), a State commission shall permit a carrier to relinquish its ETC designation in any area served by more than one ETC. Following relinquishment of CBW’s ETC designation, there will continue to be several ETCs in the

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<sup>1</sup> Case No. 2011-00059, In the Matter of the Petition of Cincinnati Bell Wireless, LLC for Designation as a Non Rural Eligible Telecommunications Carrier for the Limited Purpose of Offering Lifeline Service to Qualified Households (Ky. PSC Apr. 25, 2011).

<sup>2</sup> Application at p. 2.

study area that provide Lifeline. Because other ETCs currently serve the entire area in which CBW is designated an ETC in Kentucky, notice need not be provided to those carriers to permit them to purchase or construct facilities to ensure that CBW's customers will continue to receive service.

CBW upon approval of this petition, will provide written notice by U.S. mail to each of its then-current Lifeline customers in Kentucky advising that it will no longer provide Lifeline service discounts. The notices will inform these customers that the monthly Lifeline credit will be discontinued July 1, 2014. CBW will offer each of these customers the option of continuing to receive the same service from the company without the Lifeline discount or selecting an alternative calling plan. The notices will further inform each customer that Lifeline discounted service may be obtained from one of the remaining ETCs in the area. After April 15, 2014, CBW will not activate any new Lifeline subscribers in Kentucky.<sup>3</sup>

47 USC § 214 (e)(4) states in part:

The state commission shall permit an eligible telecommunications carrier to relinquish its designation as such a carrier in any area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier. An eligible telecommunications carrier that seeks to relinquish its eligible telecommunications carrier designation for an area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier shall give advance notice to the State commission of such relinquishment. Prior to permitting a telecommunications carrier designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier to cease providing universal service in an area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier, the State commission shall require the remaining eligible telecommunications carrier or carriers to ensure that all customers served by the relinquishing carrier will continue to be served, and shall require sufficient notice to permit the purchase or construction of adequate facilities by any

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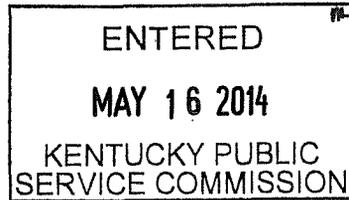
<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

remaining eligible telecommunications carrier. The state commission shall establish a time, not to exceed one year after the State commission approves such relinquishment under this paragraph, within which such purchase or construction shall be completed.

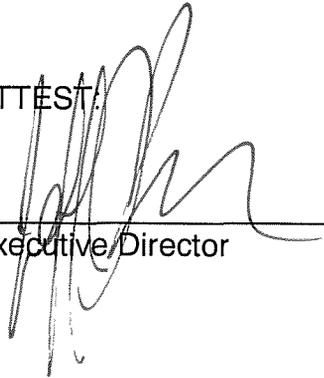
The Commission finds that, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4), there is more than one ETC in the area of relinquishment, and those carriers have sufficient facilities for the provision of service. The Commission also finds that CBW will provide sufficient notice to its customers to enable those customers to seek alternative service providers.

The Commission being sufficiently advised, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that CBW's request to withdraw as an ETC is granted. This case is now closed and removed from the Commission's docket.

By the Commission



ATTEST:

  
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Executive Director

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