

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

PETITION OF NORTH CENTRAL)	
COMMUNICATIONS, INCORPORATED)	
FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE)	CASE NO.
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER)	2003-00397
PURSUANT TO 47 U.S.C. 214(E))	

ORDER

On October 8, 2003, North Central Communications, Incorporated (“NCC”) petitioned the Commission to designate NCC as an eligible telecommunications carrier (“ETC”) pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e) and 47 C.F.R. 54.201-207.

On November 10, 2003, the Commission issued an Order requesting written comments from the parties and other interested persons. No comments were received. A data request was also issued, and NCC responded on December 10, 2003.

NCC is a competitive local exchange carrier (“CLEC”) with its principal location at 1574 Old Gallatin Road, Scottsville, Kentucky 42141. NCC provides local exchange service using its own facilities to approximately 1,300 access lines within the city of Scottsville, Kentucky. NCC’s proposed service area will include study areas currently served by Kentucky ALLTEL, Inc. (“ALLTEL”).

To receive ETC status, the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) requires a common carrier to: (1) offer services that are supported by federal universal

support mechanisms¹ throughout its designated service area; (2) provide these services using its own facilities (including unbundled network elements) or a combination of its own facilities and resale of another carrier's facilities; and (3) advertise the availability of these services through media of general distribution.

The Commission finds that NCC has met the standards established by the FCC. NCC currently provides services eligible for support by the federal universal service fund to 100 percent of the lines in the service area for which it seeks ETC designation.² In response to the Commission's November 10, 2003 Order requesting information, NCC responded that it offers these services through use of its own facilities. NCC has begun advertising the availability and price of these services using media of general distribution.³ NCC has complied fully with FCC guidelines regarding ETC designation.

NCC has provided sufficient evidence for this Commission to grant ETC status. This designation will benefit consumers in Kentucky by expanding the range of competitive choices and by providing an incentive for incumbent telephone companies to improve their existing networks.

The Commission, having reviewed the evidence of record and having been otherwise sufficiently advised, HEREBY ORDERS that:

¹ These services are: (1) Voice grade access to the public switched network; (2) Local usage; (3) Dual tone multi-frequency signaling or its functional equivalent; (4) Single-party service or its functional equivalent; (5) Access to emergency services; (6) Access to operator services; (7) Access to interexchange services; (8) Access to directory assistance services; and (9) Toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers. 47 C.F.R. Section 54.101(a).

² NCC's Response to the Commission's November 10, 2003 Order at 1.

³ NCC's Petition, October 8, 2003, at 4.

1. NCC is designated as an ETC for the current service territory of ALLTEL. Accordingly, NCC is eligible to receive federal Universal Service Fund support.

2. NCC shall offer universal support services to consumers in its service area.

3. NCC shall offer these services using its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale of another carrier's services, including the services offered by another ETC.

4. NCC shall advertise the availability of and charges for these services using media of general distribution.

5. A copy of this Order shall be served upon the FCC and the Universal Service Administrative Company.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 27th day of January, 2004.

By the Commission

ATTEST:

Wm. H. I. Barber

Executive Director
Deputy