



DOUGLAS F. BRENT
DIRECT DIAL: (502) 568-5734
DIRECT FAX: (502) 562-0934
Douglas.Brent@skofirm.com

2000 PNC PLAZA
500 WEST JEFFERSON STREET
LOUISVILLE, KY 40202-2828
MAIN: (502) 333-6000
FAX: (502) 333-6099

October 11, 2016

Ms. Talina R. Matthews
Executive Director
Kentucky Public Service Commission
211 Sower Boulevard
P.O. Box 615
Frankfort, KY 40601

RECEIVED

OCT 13 2016

Public Service
Commission

**RE: Global Connection Inc. of America Petition for Designation as a Wireline Eligible
Telecommunications Carrier in the State of Kentucky**

Dear Ms. Matthews:

Enclosed please find and accept for filing the original and ten copies of Global Connection, Inc.'s Petition for Designation as a Wireline Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of Kentucky.

Please confirm receipt of this filing by placing the stamp of your Office with the date received on the enclosed additional copy and return to me via the enclosed, self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Sincerely yours,

Douglas F. Brent
Global Connection Inc. of America

DFB
Enclosures

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

RECEIVED

GLOBAL CONNECTION INC. OF AMERICA)
)
Petition for Designation as a Wireline Eligible)
Telecommunications Carrier in the State of)
Kentucky)

OCT 13 2016
Public Service
Commission

Case No. 2016-00 _____

GLOBAL CONNECTION INC. OF AMERICA
PETITION FOR DESIGNATION AS A WIRELINE ELIGIBLE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER IN THE STATE OF KENTUCKY

Global Connection Inc. of America (Global Connection or the Company), by its undersigned counsel, respectfully submits this Petition for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) pursuant to section 214(e)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (Act)¹, sections 54.101 *et seq.* through 54.207 of the rules of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC),² and the rules and regulations of the Kentucky Public Service Commission (Commission). Global Connection requests that the Commission designate it as a wireline ETC throughout the AT&T Kentucky (“AT&T”) and Windstream Kentucky (“Windstream”)³ service territories (Designated Service Area) to provide Lifeline-discounted local exchange and long distance services to low-income consumers in Kentucky. The Company seeks this designation in order to receive federal universal service support. Global Connection also requests ETC status for the purpose of receiving support from the Kentucky Universal Service Fund.⁴ The Company does not request designation to receive

¹ See 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(2).

² See 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.101–54.207.

³ This request includes the exchange territories of Windstream Kentucky East and Windstream Kentucky West.

⁴ See *In the Matter of an Inquiry into Universal Service and Funding Issues*, Adm. Case No. 360 (August 7, 1998) (setting monthly reimbursement amount for ETCs).

high-cost support.⁵ As demonstrated below, Global Connection satisfies all of the statutory and regulatory requirements for designation as an ETC in Kentucky. The Company is an established wireline carrier, operating in over two dozen states, including Kentucky, and is already designated as a wireline ETC in nine states and as a wireless ETC in twenty-four jurisdictions. The Commission designated Global Connection as a wireless ETC effective August 7, 2013 in Case No. 2013-00051. Designation of Global Connection to provide Lifeline services in Kentucky on a wireline basis as well will serve the public interest.

Global Connection further requests that the Commission grant this Petition expedited review and approval. The Company is already operating in Kentucky as a wireline telecommunications provider and has the operational framework in place for provision of Lifeline services. Indeed, Global Connection has been providing wireline Lifeline services in Kentucky for years, through resale of the already-discounted Lifeline services of AT&T.⁶ The Company increased its Kentucky Lifeline and non-Lifeline customer base this past year with the acquisition of additional customers from Budget Prepay, Inc.⁷ Effective August 15, 2016, pursuant to a recent FCC decision, however, this Lifeline-through-resale arrangement ceased

⁵ Consistent with FCC holdings, there is no need for a “creamskimming” analysis in connection with Global Connection’s Petition because the Company is seeking ETC designation only for purposes of receiving federal low-income support. *See, e.g., Virgin Mobile USA, L.P.*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Order, 24 FCC Rcd 3381, ¶ 39 n. 101 (2009).

⁶ For these services, Global Connection does not seek nor does it receive any reimbursement from USAC. Instead, the underlying carrier, a designated ETC, seeks reimbursement.

⁷ The FCC granted the assignment of customers from Budget PrePay to Global Connection on November 30, 2015. *See* Notice of Domestic Section 214 Authorization Granted, WC Docket No. 15-258, DA 15-1370, 30 FCC Rcd 13628 (Nov. 30, 2015). Notice of the transaction was provided to the Commission on November 3, 2015. *See* Letter from Joshua Guyan, Outside Counsel, Kelley Drye & Warren, to Jeff Derouen, Executive Director, Kentucky Public Service Commission, Notification of Global Connection Inc. of America and Budget Prepay, Inc. dba Budget Phone Regarding a Transfer of Customers.

to be available.⁸ Consequently, Global Connection desires to obtain designation from the Commission in order to re-enter the Lifeline sector as soon as possible.⁹ As discussed below, Global Connection will offer low-income Kentucky consumers a valuable alternative choice of Lifeline provider, in particular by offering the increasingly rare option of wireline Lifeline services.

In support of this Petition, Global Connection provides the following information:

All correspondence, communications, pleadings, notices, orders and decisions relating to this Petition should be addressed to:

Douglas F. Brent
STOLL KEENON OGDEN PLLC
2000 PNC Plaza
500 West Jefferson Street
Louisville, KY 40202-2828
Tel: (502) 333-6000
Fax: (502) 333-6099
Email: douglas.brent@skofirm.com

with a copy to:

Joshua T. Guyan
KELLEY DRYE & WARREN LLP
3050 K Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20007
Tel: (202) 342-8566
Fax: (202) 342-8451
Email: jguyan@kelleydrye.com

⁸ See *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support, Connect American Fund*, WC Docket Nos. 11-42, 09-197, 10-90, Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Order on Reconsideration, Second Report and Order, and Memorandum Opinion and Order, FCC 15-71, ¶¶ 244, 249 (2015) (*2015 Lifeline Second Report and Order*) (limiting reimbursement through the federal Lifeline fund to carriers that directly serve the end user Lifeline subscribers).

⁹ Rather than allow the August 2016 change to impact its Lifeline customers, the Company has continued to provide discounted services to its former wireline Lifeline customers without support from the federal or state low income funds.

David Skogen
President and CEO
Global Connection Inc. of America
5555 Oakbrook Parkway, Suite 620
Norcross, Georgia 30093
Email: dskogen@gcioa.com

I. COMPANY OVERVIEW

Global Connection is a Georgia corporation¹⁰ located at 5555 Oakbrook Parkway, Suite 620, Norcross, GA 30093. Global Connection provides prepaid wireline local exchange and long distance services to residential customers in 26 states.¹¹ Global Connection also provides wireless services in 24 territories.¹² In Kentucky, Global Connection is registered with the Commission to provide prepaid intrastate telecommunications services¹³ and to provide commercial mobile radio services (CMRS).¹⁴ The Company currently serves approximately 1,000 wireline customers in Kentucky.¹⁵

The Company is designated as an ETC to provide Lifeline services to low-income consumers on a wireline basis in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Michigan, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee, and on a wireless basis in all of its 24 wireless

¹⁰ Global Connection was incorporated in the State of Georgia on June 1, 1998.

¹¹ The 26 states are: Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin, and West Virginia. Global Connection also holds domestic interstate and international section 214 authority from the FCC. The Company is properly registered with the FCC to provide telecommunications services pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 64.1195.

¹² The 24 territories are: Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin and West Virginia as well as Puerto Rico.¹³ Utility ID Number 5018100.

¹³ Utility ID Number 5018100.

¹⁴ Utility ID Number 4109350.

¹⁵ Global Connection is registered with the Kentucky Secretary of State as a foreign corporation operating in Kentucky.

service territories. Global Connection has pending applications for ETC designation in Mississippi and Texas.

Global Connection’s prepaid wireline services are affordable and attractive to low-income consumers who may be challenged to meet the credit history and associated deposit requirements of the incumbent wireline carrier or other competitive providers. The Company provides competitive wireline phone services with a variety of available calling features supported by a dedicated customer service team. Global Connection’s plans and offerings are geared toward serving low-income Kentucky customers, and its service models and pricing plans reflect this mission.

Global Connection Lifeline customers in Kentucky will have several plans from which to choose. As an ETC, Global Connection will offer the following plans:¹⁶

Basic Package. Global Connection will provide qualified Kentucky Lifeline customers with unlimited local calling at a discounted flat rate as follows:

AT&T	WINDSTREAM
\$20.70 per month, plus fees and taxes	\$36.70 per month, plus fees and taxes

Advantage Package. Global Connection will provide qualified Kentucky Lifeline customers with unlimited local calling plus 100 minutes of long distance. This package also includes Caller ID and Call Waiting and is available at a discounted flat rate as follows:

AT&T	WINDSTREAM
\$25.70 per month, plus fees and taxes	\$46.70 per month, plus fees and taxes

Premium Package. Global Connection will provide qualified Kentucky Lifeline customers, located in AT&T territory, with unlimited local calling plus

¹⁶ The prices noted for these service packages reflect application of the federal \$9.25 discount as well as an additional Company discount of \$3.50.

100 minutes of long distance. This feature-rich package also includes Caller ID, Call Waiting, Call Forwarding, Call Return, 3-Way Calling, Call Blocking, and Call Trace and is available at a discounted flat rate as follows:.

AT&T
\$30.70 per month, plus fees and taxes

Customers for any of these service packages may purchase additional domestic long distance calling in the amount of 250 minutes for \$5.00 or unlimited domestic long-distance for \$10.00 per month. Additional information regarding the Company's plans, rates, and terms and conditions can be found on its website at www.connectwithglobal.com.

Global Connection does not conduct credit checks and does not require service contracts from its customers. As a result, Global Connection can reach out to those consumers who are often ignored by traditional wireline carriers.

II. REQUESTED SERVICE AREA

Global Connection respectfully requests that the Commission designate it as an ETC to provide Lifeline services to low-income Kentucky customers throughout the territories of AT&T and Windstream. A list of the wire centers included in this territory is attached as **Exhibit A**.

III. THE COMMISSION HAS JURISDICTION TO DESIGNATE GLOBAL CONNECTION AS AN ETC

Pursuant to the provisions of 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(2), as well as the laws of the State of Kentucky and its own regulations, the Commission has the authority to designate a common carrier, otherwise subject to its jurisdiction,¹⁷ as an ETC.

IV. GLOBAL CONNECTION MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ETC TO SERVE THE DESIGNATED SERVICE AREA

Section 214(e)(1) of the Act provides that, upon request and consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity, the Commission may designate more than one common carrier as an ETC in areas served by a rural telephone company and shall do so with respect to all other areas, provided that the carrier (i) offers the services that are supported by the federal universal service support mechanisms and (ii) advertises the availability of such services. As demonstrated below, Global Connection fully meets these requirements for ETC designation.

1. Global Connection Will Operate as a Common Carrier

Global Connection is a common carrier, authorized to provide competitive wireline telecommunications services in twenty-six states, including Kentucky. The Company also holds interstate and international section 214 authority from the FCC.

2. The Company Will Provide the Services Designated for Lifeline Support

Global Connection will offer all of the supported services enumerated under section 254(c) of the FCC's rules, codified as 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(a). Specifically, the Company will provide the supported services as follows:

¹⁷ Common carriers not subject to a state commission's jurisdiction may request designation by the FCC. *See* 47 § U.S.C. 214(e)(6).

A. Voice grade access to the Public Switched Telephone Network

The FCC describes “voice grade access” as the ability for a user to make and receive telephone calls within a specified bandwidth. Global Connection will provide this service through resale of underlying AT&T and Windstream voice services.¹⁸

B. Local usage

The FCC’s rules require that ETCs provide “minutes of use for local service at no additional charge.”¹⁹ Global Connection’s proposed Lifeline plans, as discussed above, all provide unlimited local calling without any additional incremental per call charge above the basic service rate.²⁰

C. Access to emergency services

Through arrangements with its underlying carrier(s), Global Connection will provide its Lifeline customers with access to emergency voice services provided by local government and/or public safety officials, including 911 and E911 where available and will comply with all 911/E911 requirements imposed by federal, state and/or local jurisdictions as well as the FCC and this Commission.

D. Toll limitation for qualifying low-income customers

Toll limitation enables customers to prevent unexpected charges for long distance calling. Because Global Connection’s services are prepaid, the Company’s customers will not bear the risk of such burdensome charges. In the event that Global Connection offers a Lifeline service plan that is not prepaid or which will potentially apply additional charges for

¹⁸ See KRS 278.5435(2)(e) (explaining that “voice service” offered at retail by an electing local exchange carrier means a retail service provided using any technology and including functionalities described in 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(a)).

¹⁹ 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(a).

²⁰ To date, the FCC has not identified a specific minimum amount of local usage.

long distance calling, the Company will use the appropriate toll limitation technology to provide this required service at no additional charge to Lifeline customers.

E. Means of providing Lifeline service

As discussed above, Global Connection will provide Lifeline services via resale of underlying carrier services provided by AT&T and Windstream. Section 214(e)(1)(A) of the Act provides that an ETC must provide services “using its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale of another carrier’s services.”²¹ Pursuant to the FCC’s 2012 Lifeline Reform Order, however, resellers are granted blanket forbearance from this facilities requirement, subject to conditions, in connection with limited ETC designation to participate in the Lifeline program.²² The FCC conditioned blanket forbearance on the reseller’s compliance with certain ETC obligations, including the provision of 911/E911 voice telephony service to customers regardless of their activation status and available calling minutes.²³ In addition, the reseller must adhere to an FCC-approved compliance plan that includes specific information about the reseller’s service offerings and outlines the measures that the reseller will take to implement the obligations established in the 2012 Lifeline Reform Order.²⁴

Global Connection commits to compliance with these conditions. The Company has an approved wireless compliance plan, outlining the measures the Company takes to implement the conditions imposed by the FCC in its 2012 Lifeline Reform Order. This plan

²¹ 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1)(A).

²² See *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Lifeline and Link Up, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Advancing Broadband Availability Through Digital Literacy Training*, WC Docket Nos. 11-42, 03-109, 12-23, CC Docket No. 96-45, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 12-11, ¶ 368 (2012) (2012 Lifeline Reform Order).

²³ See *id.* ¶ 373. There are also requirements for wireless providers to provide E911-compliant handsets and to replace E911 non-compliant handsets at no charge to the Lifeline voice telephony service customer.

²⁴ See *id.* ¶ 368.

was originally filed on March 8, 2012 and most recently revised on April 30, 2012. The FCC approved Global Connection's wireless compliance plan on May 25, 2012.²⁵ On June 26, 2012, Global Connection submitted its proposed compliance plan for wireline Lifeline services. Following revisions on September 17, 2012, the plan remained pending into mid-2016. Following discussion this spring with FCC Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) staff, specifically addressing the Company's need for wireline ETC designations in several states, including Kentucky, Global Connection submitted a revised and updated draft of its proposed wireline compliance plan.²⁶ The Bureau approved the Company's wireline compliance plan on August 10, 2016.²⁷ Copies of Global Connection's approved wireline compliance plan (Compliance Plan) and the FCC public notice of approval are appended as **Exhibit B**. As a result of the FCC's approval of the Company's Compliance Plan, Global Connection is not required to meet the "own facilities" requirement of section 214(e)(1)(A) for its wireline Lifeline services. Consequently, the Company's proposal to operate as an ETC in Kentucky, utilizing resold services, will be entirely compliant with FCC requirements.²⁸

²⁵ See *Wireline Competition Bureau Approves the Compliance Plans of American Broadband & Telecommunications, Budget Prepay, Consumer Cellular, Global Connection, Terracom and Total Call*, WC Docket Nos. 09-197 and 11-42, Public Notice, DA 12-828 (rel. May 25, 2012).

²⁶ *Global Connection Inc. of America Wireline Service Compliance Plan*; WC Docket Nos. 09-197, 11-42 (filed July 14, 2016).

²⁷ *Wireline Competition Bureau Approves the Wireline Compliance Plans of Global Connection and Phone Club Corporation*, WC Docket Nos. 09-197, 11-42, DA 16-905 (rel. Aug. 10, 2016).

²⁸ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.410.

3. Global Connection Will Advertise the Availability of the Supported Services

The FCC adopted specific requirements for disclosures in Lifeline advertising in the 2012 Lifeline Reform Order. Global Connection already complies with these requirements in states where it is designated an ETC and will comply with respect to Kentucky operations following designation by this Commission.²⁹

The Company includes the following information regarding its Lifeline service on all marketing materials describing the service: (1) it is a Lifeline service; (2) Lifeline is a government assistance program; (3) the service is non-transferable; (4) only eligible consumers may enroll in the program; (5) the program is limited to one discount per household; (6) documentation is necessary for enrollment; and (7) Global Connection's name (the ETC).³⁰ These statements are included in all print, audio, video and web materials (including social networking media) used to describe or enroll customers in the Company's Lifeline service offering, as well as the Company's application/certification forms.³¹ This specifically includes the Company's website as well as outdoor signage.³²

The Company's application and certification forms will state the following:

- the service is a Lifeline service;
- Lifeline is a government assistance program; and
- only eligible consumers may enroll in the program.³³

²⁹ See 2012 Lifeline Reform Order ¶¶ 275-82.

³⁰ See 2012 Lifeline Reform Order ¶ 275; 47 C.F.R. § 54.405(c).

³¹ See *id.*

³² See *id.*

³³ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.405(c).

In addition, these forms will state that consumers who willfully make a false statement in order to obtain the Lifeline benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the program.

Global Connection is fully prepared to comply with federal requirements that it advertise the availability of its services throughout its Designated Service Area using media of general distribution.³⁴ Also, Global Connection further commits that it will publicize the availability of Lifeline service in a manner reasonably designed to reach those likely to qualify for the service.³⁵ As a result, more low-income Kentucky residents will be made aware of the opportunities afforded to them under the Lifeline program and will be able to take advantage of those opportunities by subscribing to Global Connection's service. Samples of the Company's marketing materials are included as Exhibit C to Global Connection's proposed Compliance Plan, attached hereto as **Exhibit B**.

4. Global Connection Complies with the FCC's Additional Obligations for ETCs

In addition to meeting the statutory criteria discussed above, Global Connection complies with the standards established by the FCC for Lifeline ETCs.³⁶

A. Global Connection will comply with service requirements.

Per the requirements of 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(1)(i), Global Connection certifies that it will comply with the service requirements applicable to the low-income support it receives as a result of designation as an ETC for purposes of providing Lifeline services. Global Connection not only commits to provide service throughout its Designated Service Area, but

³⁴ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.201(d)(2).

³⁵ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.405(b).

³⁶ See *Federal-State Joint Commission on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Report and Order, FCC 05-46, ¶¶ 40-43 (2005).

also commits to provide universal service in a timely manner to all customers who make a reasonable request for service pursuant to FCC rules.³⁷

B. Global Connection's service will remain functional in emergency situations

Global Connection's Lifeline services will remain functional in emergency situations.³⁸

As discussed above, Global Connection will utilize the extensive and well-established network facilities of its underlying carriers, AT&T and Windstream. As a result, the Company is able to support Global Connection Lifeline customers with the same ability to remain functional in emergency situations as currently provided by these carriers to their own customers. As the Commission is well aware, the networks of AT&T and Windstream are demonstrably robust, equipped with sufficient back-up power to remain functional in the absence of an external power source, and capable of re-routing traffic around damaged facilities as well as managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations.³⁹

C. Global Connection commits to consumer protection and service quality

Global Connection commits to compliance with and satisfaction of all applicable state and federal requirements related to consumer protection and service quality standards. In its current operations and with respect to future operations as an ETC in Kentucky, Global Connection is committed to full compliance with federal, state and local consumer privacy protection standards, including but not limited to the protection of designated customer information (Customer Proprietary Network Information or CPNI). The Company will certify compliance with the same to the FCC on an annual basis. Global Connection also recognizes the competitive imperative to set and maintain high standards of service quality and commits to do the same as a Kentucky ETC. Indeed, the Company's long history as a

³⁷ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(1).

³⁸ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(2).

³⁹ See, e.g., AT&T 2015 FCC Form 481 certification regarding functionality in emergency situations, available at <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/comment/view?id=60001089373> .

wireline provider attests to its understanding of this requirement and to its successful implementation of operational standards and customer service programs. Global Connection has established customer care programs that demonstrate its commitment to service quality and customer satisfaction.⁴⁰

The contact information for Global Connection's designated representative for resolution of customer service, service quality, and/or Lifeline inquiries is:

Michael Khoury – Director of Administration
Global Connection Inc. of America
5555 Oakbrook Parkway, Suite 620
Norcross, GA 30093
Tel: (678) 741-6444
Email: khoury@gcioa.com

D. Financial and technical requirements

The FCC rules require that a carrier seeking designation as a Lifeline-only ETC demonstrate that it is financially and technically capable of providing the supported Lifeline service in compliance with all of the low-income program rules. Global Connection fully satisfies this requirement. Global Connection has been offering non-Lifeline and Lifeline wireline services since 1998 and has been providing non-Lifeline and Lifeline wireless services since 2011. The Company generates substantial revenues from the provision of non-Lifeline services, which currently represent nearly a quarter of its wireline customers.⁴¹ As a result, the Company has not relied – and, in future, will not rely – exclusively on Lifeline reimbursements to support its operations. Moreover, Global Connection has access to capital

⁴⁰ Global Connection will report information to both the FCC and to the Commission annually regarding the number of consumer complaints received per 1,000 lines. *See Federal-State Joint Commission on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45, First Report and Order, FCC 97-157 (1997) (USF Order).

⁴¹ Global Connection continues to develop and grow its non-Lifeline wireline customer base. In the past year, the Company negotiated a 19-state transaction through which Global Connection acquired several thousand customers from Budget Prepay, Inc., the majority of which are non-Lifeline customers.

from its investors. The current majority owner of Global Connection is Milestone Partners, a Pennsylvania private equity firm that specializes in making control equity investments in established operating businesses in a wide variety of industries with valuations of up to \$150 million. In addition, one of the Company's minority investors, Banyan Investments, a Florida mezzanine investment firm, has made and continues to make additional funding available as needed.

Similarly, Global Connection has the technical competence to provide the proposed services. The Company has been providing wireline telecommunications services throughout the United States for over 17 years, and nearly as long in Kentucky, steadily developing its strategic insights and improving its customer offerings. Today, Global Connection's telecommunications operations are managed and maintained by a seasoned team of industry veterans. Information regarding the backgrounds of key management personnel is attached as **Exhibit C**. Moreover, because Global Connection will operate as a reseller, the underlying technical management of its services will be supported as well by the expertise of its underlying carrier(s).

E. Global Connection will comply with the Lifeline certification and verification requirements of 47 C.F.R. § 54.410

Global Connection is committed to compliance with and support for the FCC's continuing efforts to eliminate waste, fraud and general abuse of resources in the Lifeline program. In response to the FCC's evolving regulations for certification and verification of a customer's qualification for Lifeline service, the Company has implemented and updated its procedures to ensure these requirements are met. Global Connection's approved Compliance Plan, provided here as **Exhibit B**, describes the detailed and comprehensive procedures set in place by the Company to address requirements both for customer certification and verification and with respect to de-enrollment and duplication of service. These procedures comply fully

with the FCC's most recently revised Lifeline program rules and, indeed, go beyond those requirements.

New Global Connection customers must choose a plan upon enrollment. Customers for the Company's wireline Lifeline services can enroll in person, by calling Global Connection's customer service center or visiting their website online. Almost half of the Company's wireline customer enrollment is done in-person at store locations that sell Global Connections services, as opposed to over the phone or in the Internet. Throughout its Lifeline service territories, the Company has nearly 500 active agent locations, typically situated in retail locations such as convenience and check cashing stores. Currently, Global Connection has 13 active agents for Lifeline services in Kentucky. The Company also has arrangements in place with Kroger and Ace Cash Express stores to accept customer payments, including over 117 locations in Kentucky.⁴² Customers that enroll by calling Global Connection's customer service number are sent an application or certification form to complete, sign and return by electronic mail, fax, or U.S. mail along with a copy of the prospective customer's proof of eligibility. Finally, customers can also enroll online by completing and printing an application to sign and return by electronic mail, fax, or U.S. mail, along with a copy of the prospective customer's proof of eligibility.

Global Connection will comply with the uniform eligibility criteria established in section 54.409 of the FCC's rules.⁴³ All subscribers will be required to demonstrate eligibility based at least on: (1) household income at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a household of that size; or (2) the household's participation in one of the federal assistance

⁴² In addition, once enrolled, customers can make in-person payments at thousands of Western Union and Moneygram locations.

⁴³ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.409.

programs listed in new section 54.409.⁴⁴ In addition, the Company will confirm that the subscriber is not already receiving a Lifeline service and that no one else in the subscriber's household is subscribed to a Lifeline service. Global Connection will implement certification policies and procedures that enable consumers to demonstrate their eligibility for Lifeline assistance to Company personnel as detailed in the Lifeline rules, together with any additional state certification requirements.⁴⁵

F. Global Connection will comply with Commission and FCC requirements for fees, charges and reports

Global Connection will comply with all applicable Commission and FCC requirements with respect to fees, charges and reports. The Company will timely pay or remit applicable federal, state and local regulatory fees, including universal service and 911/E911 fees imposed on customers. In addition, Global Connection will comply with the FCC's annual reporting requirements for ETCs as set forth in section 54.422 of the FCC's rules.⁴⁶

Global Connection will not collect service deposits for its plans and will not charge a number portability fee for Lifeline accounts.⁴⁷

⁴⁴ In a recent order, the FCC adopted a change to the list of programs that will qualify recipients for Lifeline service. These changes are scheduled to become effective on or after December 1, 2016. *See Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support, Connect America Fund*, WC Docket Nos. 11-42, 09-197, 10-90, Third Report and Order, Further Report and Order, and Order on Reconsideration, FCC 16-38, ¶¶ 167-216 (rel. Apr. 27, 2016) (Lifeline Modernization Order).

⁴⁵ *See* 2012 Lifeline Reform Order ¶ 61; *see also* 47 C.F.R. § 54.410(a). The Lifeline Modernization Order requires the creation of a National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier, with a target deadline of December 31, 2019 for all states. *See* Lifeline Modernization Order ¶ 164. Global Connection will utilize the National Verifier when it is available.

⁴⁶ *See* 47 C.F.R. § 54.422.

⁴⁷ *See* 47 CFR § 54.401(c), (e).

V. DESIGNATION OF GLOBAL CONNECTION AS AN ETC ON A WIRELINE BASIS IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

The FCC has identified factors that should be considered when determining whether designation of additional ETCs will serve the public interest and whether the benefits of an additional ETC would outweigh potential harms. These factors include the benefits of increased competitive choice, and the unique advantages of the applicant company's service offerings.⁴⁸ Global Connection affirms that its designation as an ETC in Kentucky would fully satisfy these criteria.⁴⁹

First, Global Connection's wireline offering provides low-income Kentucky residents with an important choice in how they manage their telephone services as well as a quality alternative to the limited selection of wireline ETCs operating in Kentucky.

Further, the Company's proposed Kentucky Lifeline service offerings present uncommon advantages for prospective customers. Primary among these is the ability for customers to control their local telephone service costs by subscribing to a prepaid flat rate calling plan with which they can more effectively manage their communications costs. All of the Company's Lifeline plans include unlimited local calling. In addition, customers have the option to control their long distance costs by subscribing to plans that include a pre-set number of interexchange minutes of use each month, included in the monthly flat fee. State and federal regulators regularly note the frequency of consumer complaints regarding significant per-minute overage charges for long distance calling. The inclusion of domestic long distance telephone as part of several Global Connection flat rate service offerings

⁴⁸ See 47 U.S.C. § 54.202(c).

⁴⁹ Indeed, the FCC has held that designation of a competitive ETC solely to provide Lifeline services in non-rural areas is *per se* in the public interest. See *Cellco Partnership d/b/a Bell Atlantic Mobile Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Memorandum Opinion and Order, DA 00-2895, ¶ 14 (2000). As discussed herein, however, designation of Global Connection is appropriate based on the merits of the Company's proposed Lifeline services.

provides consumers with long distance calling capability while enabling them to avoid the risks of incurring unexpected financially burdensome per-minute charges for such calling. At the same time, customers always have the flexibility to purchase additional long distance minutes at competitively low rates in the event that they have used all of their allotted plan minutes for a particular month.

Global Connection's Lifeline service offerings will also include a range of appealing features, enabling customers to select a plan that meets their needs.

Finally, designation of Global Connection will have a very limited effect upon the financial resilience of the federal Universal Service Fund (Fund). The Company is applying for ETC designation solely for the purpose of providing Lifeline discounts to qualified low-income consumers and to seek reimbursement for the same. Global Connection will not seek or accept high-cost support.⁵⁰

Because Lifeline support is designed to reduce the monthly cost of telecommunication services for eligible consumers, is distributed on a per-household basis, and is directly reflected in the price that the eligible household pays, it is assured that all support received by the carrier is used to provide Lifeline services to consumers. It is also important to recognize that a Lifeline-only ETC receives USF support *only* for the customers that it serves. In the event that such customers have migrated to Global Connection from another Lifeline provider, no additional support is required. The only change is to the identity of the carrier entitled to seek reimbursement. At the same time, all providers are required to contribute to the federal Universal Service Fund based upon their non-Lifeline interstate revenues. Thus, in the event that a customer previously without telephone service enrolls for

⁵⁰ As a result, designation of Global Connection as an ETC will not have an adverse effect (or any effect) on the growth in the high-cost portions of the USF. Similarly, it will neither create nor contribute to an erosion of high-cost funding available to any rural or non-rural telephone company.

Lifeline service, the additional revenue (not including the reimbursement) will result in additional contributions to the federal USF.

The FCC reaffirmed this position when it stated that “the potential growth of the fund associated with high-cost support distributed to competitive ETCs” is not relevant to carriers seeking support associated with the low-income program.⁵¹ The FCC also recognized that the total effect of additional low-income-only ETC designations would have a minimal impact on the Fund when it stated that “any increase in the size of the fund would be minimal and would be outweighed by the benefit of increasing eligible participation in the Lifeline program, furthering the statutory goal of providing access to low-income consumers.”⁵²

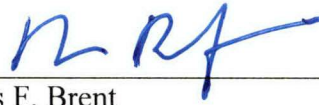
VI. CONCLUSION

By this Petition, Global Connection asserts its willingness and ability to comply with all the rules and regulations that the Commission imposes upon ETCs to provide Lifeline service. Upon Staff request, Global Connection is prepared to answer questions or present additional testimony or other evidence about its services within the State of Kentucky.

Having demonstrated that Global Connection satisfies the conditions necessary for designation as an ETC in Kentucky, and having shown that the public and universal service interests of Kentucky consumers will be properly served, Global Connection respectfully requests that the Commission expeditiously designate Global Connection for the provision of low-income support on a wireline basis throughout its requested Designated Service Area in the State of Kentucky.

⁵¹ See *Application of TracFone Wireless, Inc. for Forbearance from 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1)(A) and 47 C.F.R. § 54.201(i)*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Order, FCC 05-165, ¶ 17 (2005) (*TracFone Forbearance Order*).

⁵² *Id.*



Douglas F. Brent
STOLL KEENON OGDEN PLLC
2000 PNC Plaza
500 West Jefferson Street
Louisville, KY 40202-2828
Tel: (502) 333-6000
Fax: (502) 333-6099
Email: douglas.brent@skofirm.com

Date: October 11, 2016

Joshua T. Guyan
KELLEY DRYE & WARREN LLP
3050 K Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20007
Tel: (202) 342-8566
Fax: (202) 342-8451
Email: jguyan@kelleydrye.com

*Attorneys for Global Connection Inc. of
America*

EXHIBITS

- Exhibit A List of Wire Centers
- Exhibit B FCC Approved Compliance Plan &
FCC Public Notice Approving Compliance Plan
- Exhibit C Management Qualifications

Exhibit A

SHORT SWITCH	OCN_NAME	RC ABBRE
ALLNKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	ALLEN
AURRKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	AURORA
BDFRKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	BEDFORD
BGDDKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	BAGDAD
BLFDKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	BLOOMFIELD
BNLYKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	BENHAMLNCH
BNTNKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	BENTON
BRGNKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	BURGIN
BRMNKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	BREMEN
BRTWKYES	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	BARDSTOWN
BVDMKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	BEAVER DAM
BWLGKYRV	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	BOWLINGGREN
BYVLKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	BEATTYVL
CADZKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	CADIZ
CHPLKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	CHAPLIN
CLAYKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	CLAY
CLHNKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	CALHOUN
CLPTKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	CLOVERPORT
CLTNKYES	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	CLINTON
CMBGKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	CAMPBELSBG
CNCYKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	CENTRAL CY
CNTNKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	CANTON
CNTWKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	CENTERTOWN
COTNKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	CROFTON
CRBNKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	CORBIN
CRBOKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	CRAB ORCH
CRLSKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	CARLISLE
CRTNKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	CARROLLTON
CYDNKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	CORYDON
CYNTKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	CYNTHIANA
DAVLKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	DANVILLE
DIXNKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	DIXON
DRBOKYES	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	DRAKESBORO
DWSPKYES	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	DAWSON SPG
EDVLKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	EDDYVILLE
EKTNKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	ELKTON
ELCYKYES	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	ELKHORN CY
EMNNKYES	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	EMINENCE
EMNNKYPL	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	CROPPER
ERTNKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	EARLINGTON
FDCKKYES	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	FEDSCREEK

Exhibit A

FDVLKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	FORDSVILLE
FEBRKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	FREEBURN
FKLNKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	FRANKLIN
FLTNKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	CAYCE
FNVLYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	FINCHVILLE
FORDKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	FORD
FRDNKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	FREDONIA
FRFTKYES	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	FRANKFORT
FRFTKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	FRANKFORT
GBVLKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	GILBERTSVL
GHNTKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	GHENT
GNVLYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	GREENVILLE
GRACKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	GRACEY
GRTWKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	GEORGETOWN
GTHRKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	GUTHRIE
HABTKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	HABIT
HANSKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	HANSON
HCMNKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	HICKMAN
HDBGKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	CORNISHVL
HNSNKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	HENDERSON
HPVLKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	HOPKINSVL
HRBGKYES	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	HARDINSBG
HRFRKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	HARTFORD
HRLNKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	HARLAN
HWVLKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	HAWESVILLE
INEZKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	INEZ
ISLDKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	ISLAND
JCSNKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	JACKSON
JLLCTNMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	JELICO
JNCYKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	JUNCTIONCY
LBJTKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	LEBANONJCT
LFYTKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	LA FAYETTE
LGRNKYES	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	LA GRANGE
LOUSKYES	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	LOUISA
LRBGKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	LAWRENCEBG
LSVLKY26	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	LOUISVILLE
LSVLKYAN	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	LOUISVILLE
LSVLKYBE	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	LOUISVILLE
LSVLKYBR	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	LOUISVILLE
LSVLKYCW	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	LOUISVILLE
LSVLKYFC	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	LOUISVILLE
LSVLKYHA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	LOUISVILLE

Exhibit A

LSVLKYJT	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	LOUISVILLE
LSVLKYO A	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	LOUISVILLE
LSVLKYSH	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	LOUISVILLE
LSVLKYSL	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	LOUISVILLE
LSVLKYSM	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	LOUISVILLE
LSVLKYTS	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	LOUISVILLE
LSVLKYVS	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	LOUISVILLE
LVMRKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	LIVERMORE
MACEKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	MACEO
MARNKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	MARION
MARTKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	MARTIN
MCDNKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	MCDANIELS
MCWLKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	MCDOWELL
MDBOKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	MIDDLESBO
MGFDKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	MORGANFLD
MGTWKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	MORGANTOWN
MLBGKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	MILLERBURG
MLTNKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	MILTON
MRGPKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	MORTONSGAP
MRRYKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	MURRAY
MTEDKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	MOUNT EDEN
MTSTKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	MTSTERLING
MYFDKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	MAYFIELD
MYVLKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	MAYSVILLE
NEBOKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	NEBO
NEONKYES	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	NEON
NRVLKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	NORTONVL
NWHNKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	NEW HAVEN
OKGVKYES	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	OAK GROVE
OWTNKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	NEWLIBERTY
PARSKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	NOMIDDLETN
PDCHKYIP	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	PADUCAH
PDCHKYLO	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	PADUCAH
PDCHKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	PADUCAH
PDCHKYRL	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	PADUCAH
PIVLKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	PINEVILLE
PKVLKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	PIKEVILLE
PKVLKYMT	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	PIKEVILLE
PMBRKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	PEMBROKE
PNVLKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	PAINTSVL
PRBGKYES	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	PRESTONSBG
PRTNKYES	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	PRINCETON

Exhibit A

PRVDKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	PROVIDENCE
PRVLKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	PERRYVILLE
PTRYKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	PORT ROYAL
RBRDKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	ROBARDS
RLVLKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	RUSSELLVL
RSTRKYES	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	ROSETRRACE
SCRMKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	SACRAMENTO
SDVLKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	SADIEVILLE
SEBRKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	SEBREE
SHGVKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	SHARON GRV
SHVLKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	SHELBYVL
SLGHKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	SLAUGHTERS
SLPHKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	SULPHUR
SLVSKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	SALVISA
SNTNKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	STANTON
SPFDKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	MACKVILLE
SSVLKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	SIMPSONVL
STCHKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	ST CHARLES
STFRKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	STANFORD
STGRKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	STAMPNGRND
STNLKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	STANLEY
STONKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	STONE
STRGKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	STURGIS
SWSNKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	SOWILLIMSN
TRE NKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	TRENTON
TYVLKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	TAYLORSVL
UTICKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	UTICA
VIRGKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	VIRGIE
WACOKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	WACO
WDDYKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	WADDY
WHBGKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	WHITESBURG
WHVLKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	WHITESVL
WLBGKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	WILLIAMSBG
WLCKKYES	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	WALLINSCRK
WLVLKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	W LOUISVL
WNCHKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	WINCHESTER
WNCHKYPV	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	WINCHESTER
WRFDKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	WARFIELD
WSBGKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	WILLISBURG
WSPNKYMA	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	WEST POINT
WYLDKYES	BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TEL	WAYLAND
ALBYKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	ALBANY

Exhibit A

BEREKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	BEREA
BRSDKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	BURNSIDE
BRVLKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	BRADFODSVL
BSVLKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	BURKESVL
BTVLKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	BRYANTSVL
CECLKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	CECILIA
CLMAKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	COLUMBIA
CMVLKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	CAMPBELSVL
CTBGKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	CATLETTSBG
EWNGKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	EWING
FMBGKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	FLEMINGSBG
GLSGKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	GLASGOW
GNBGKYXB	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	GREENSBURG
GNUPKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	GREENUP
GRSNKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	GARRISON
GYSNKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	GRAYSON
HGVLKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	HODGENVL
HLBOKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	HILLSBORO
HTVLKYXE	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	HUSTONVL
HZRDKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	HAZARD
LBNNKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	LEBANON
LBRTKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	LIBERTY
LNCCKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	LANCASTER
LRTTKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	LORETTO
LTFDKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	LEITCHFLD
LTWDKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	LEATHERWD
LXTNKYUK	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	LEXINGTON
LXTNKYXB	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	LEXINGTON
LXTNKYXC	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	LEXINGTON
LXTNKYXD	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	LEXINGTON
LXTNKYXE	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	LEXINGTON
LXTNKYXF	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	LEXINGTON
LXTNKYXG	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	LEXINGTON
MDWYKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	MIDWAY
MEDSKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	MEADS
MNTIKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	MONTICELLO
NANCKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	NANCY
NCVLKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	NICHOLASVL
OLHLKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	OLIVE HILL
OWVLKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	OWINGSVL
PNLCKYXE	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	PAINT LICK
RSSLKYXB	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	RUSSELL

Exhibit A

SCVLKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	SCOTTSVL
SHBGKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	SHARPSBURG
SHDNKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	SO HARDIN
SLLCKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	SALT LICK
SSHRKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	SOUTHSHORE
TLBOKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	TOLLESBORO
TMVLKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	TOMPKINSVL
VICCKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	VICCO
VNBGKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	VANCEBURG
VRSLKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	VERSAILLES
WLMRKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LEXINGTON	WILMORE
AGSTKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LONDON	AUGUSTA
ARTNKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LONDON	ARLINGTON
BBVLKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LONDON	BARBOURVL
BESPKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LONDON	BEE SPRING
BKVLKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LONDON	BROOKSVL
BRHDKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LONDON	BRODHEAD
BRWLKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LONDON	BARDWELL
BWVLKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LONDON	BROWNSVL
CLCTKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LONDON	CALVERT CY
CLMBKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LONDON	COLUMBUS
CMLDKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LONDON	CUMBERLAND
CYVLKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LONDON	CANEYVILLE
DOVRKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LONDON	DOVER
EBNKKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LONDON	EUBANK
EBRNKYAC	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LONDON	EBERNSTADT
EVRSKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LONDON	EVARTS
FBSHKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LONDON	FAUBUSH
FLLCKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LONDON	FLAT LICK
FRNLKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LONDON	FERNLEAF
GMTWKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LONDON	GERMANTOWN
IRV NKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LONDON	IRVINE
JHVLKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LONDON	JOHNSVILLE
JNK NKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LONDON	JENKINS
LVTNKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LONDON	LIVINGSTON
MLBNKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LONDON	MILBURN
MMCVKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LONDON	MAMOTHCAVE
MNCHKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LONDON	MANCHESTER
MTOLKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LONDON	MT OLIVET
MTVRKYAI	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LONDON	MT VERNON
MYLCKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LONDON	MAYS LICK
ONEDKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LONDON	ONEIDA

Exhibit A

PRCYKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LONDON	PARK CITY
SCHLKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LONDON	SCIENCE HL
SMGVKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LONDON	SMITHS GRV
SMLDKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LONDON	SMITHLAND
UNTWKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LONDON	UNIONTOWN
WASHKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY EAST, INC. - LONDON	WASHINGTON
MTWSKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY WEST, INC.	MTWASHIGTN
SHPVKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY WEST, INC.	SHEPHEHSV L
ZNTNKYXA	WINDSTREAM KENTUCKY WEST, INC.	ZONETON

KELLEY DRYE & WARREN LLP

A LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP

WASHINGTON HARBOUR, SUITE 400

3050 K STREET, NW

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20007-5108

(202) 342-8400

NEW YORK, NY
LOS ANGELES, CA
CHICAGO, IL
STAMFORD, CT
PARSIPPANY, NJ

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

AFFILIATE OFFICES
MUMBAI, INDIA

FACSIMILE
(202) 342-8451
www.kelleydrye.com

JOHN HEITMANN
DIRECT LINE: (202) 342-8644
EMAIL: jheitmann@kelleydrye.com

July 14, 2016

VIA ECFS

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: **Global Connection Inc. of America Revised Wireline Compliance Plan;**
WC Docket Nos. 09-197, 11-42

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On June 26, 2012, Global Connection Inc. of America (Global Connection or Company) submitted its Compliance Plan for wireline Lifeline services, outlining the measures it would take to implement the conditions imposed by the Commission in its 2012 Lifeline Reform Order.¹ Following revisions on September 17, 2012, the plan remains pending.

The Company has an approved wireless Compliance Plan, originally filed on March 8, 2012 and most recently revised on April 30, 2012. The Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) approved Global Connection's wireless Compliance Plan on May 25, 2012.²

As discussed below, Global Connection seeks approval of a wireline Compliance Plan in order to ensure continuity of service to customers currently served through resale of the Lifeline services of an underlying eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC). On April 1, 2016, Global Connection initially sought expedited approval within thirty days of amendments to its approved

¹ See *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Lifeline and Link Up, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Advancing Broadband Availability Through Digital Literacy Training*, WC Docket No. 11-42, WC Docket No. 03-109, CC Docket No. 96-45, WC Docket No. 12-23, Report and Order and Further Notice Of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 12-11 (Feb. 6, 2012) (2012 Lifeline Reform Order).

² See *Wireline Competition Bureau Approves the Compliance Plans of American Broadband & Telecommunications, Budget Prepay, Consumer Cellular, Global Connection, Terracom and Total Call*, WC Docket. Nos. 09-197 and 11-42, Public Notice, DA 12-828 (rel. May 25, 2012).

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wireless Compliance Plan. These amendments updated the approved Compliance Plan to: (1) reflect a proposed change in ownership of the Company;³ (2) include Global Connection's wireline Lifeline services; and (3) update the information provided in the approved Compliance Plan due to the passage of time. On June 3, 2016, the Company submitted an updated Amended Compliance Plan to remove discussion of the proposed change to the ownership structure of the Company and reflect certain references to the Lifeline Modernization Order released on April 27, 2016.⁴

Pursuant to discussions with Bureau staff, Global Connection hereby submits a revised version of its pending wireline Compliance Plan, updating the information provided therein to reflect the passage of time.

Wireline Lifeline Operations

Global Connection has operated as a provider of domestic and international wireline telecommunications services since 1998. The Company currently provides prepaid wireline local exchange and long distance services to residential customers in 26 states.⁵ The Company is designated as an ETC to provide Lifeline services to low-income consumers on a wireline basis in seven states⁶ where it has held these designations since before the 2012 Lifeline Reform Order. Global Connection also makes wireline Lifeline services available in eleven states where it does not hold a wireline ETC designation by reselling AT&T Lifeline service.⁷

Global Connection is dedicated to growing its wireline operations. Indeed, Global Connection is near the completion of a transaction through which it has acquired approximately

³ The proposed change in ownership of Global Connection to Global Reconnect and Stan McCright was subsequently cancelled. *See* Notice of Decision Not to Consummate Transaction, File No. ITC-T/C-20160204-00048; WC Docket No. 16-30 (June 3, 2016).

⁴ *See Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support, Connect America Fund*, WC Docket Nos. 11-42, 09-197, 10-90, Third Report and Order, Further Report and Order, and Order on Reconsideration, FCC 16-38 (rel. Apr. 27, 2016) (Lifeline Modernization Order).

⁵ Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin, and West Virginia.

⁶ Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Michigan and North Carolina.

⁷ Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Wisconsin.

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8,700 wireline (Lifeline and non-Lifeline) customers in 19 states from Budget Prepay, Inc.⁸ At this time, the Company provides wireline Lifeline service to approximately 10,420 subscribers. In a market increasingly turning to mobile services, Global Connection's continued provision of wireline Lifeline service represents a rare and significant choice in service providers for low-income consumers.

The Company's continued ability to provide wireline Lifeline services to many of its current customers depends upon expeditious review and approval of this revised Compliance Plan. Nearly 5,000 of the Company's wireline Lifeline customers, located in 11 states, are served by the Company through resale of an underlying carrier's Lifeline services. In the Lifeline Second Report and Order released on June 22, 2015, the Commission determined "that only ETCs that provide Lifeline service directly to subscribers will be eligible for reimbursement from the Fund."⁹ The Commission provided a 180-day transition period following the effective date of the order "during which non-ETC resellers may...obtain ETC status...."¹⁰ That transition period ends on August 15, 2016 by which time Global Connection must have obtained ETC designations to continue to serve wireline Lifeline customers in these 11 states or must have completed the necessary procedures to discontinue provision of Lifeline discounts to those customers, which may require regulatory approvals and/or advance notice (as much as 60 days ahead).

Approval of this Compliance Plan is a requirement to obtain that approval – and in many states is a threshold ("gating") requirement even to file the ETC designation petition. Consequently, to comply with the Commission's determination in the Second Report and Order that all Lifeline customers shall be served directly by designated ETCs (and not by Lifeline resale), and at the same time avoid terminating essential Lifeline discounts for thousands of subscribers, Global Connection requests expeditious approval of the enclosed Compliance Plan.

⁸ See *Domestic Section 214 Application Filed for the Acquisition of Certain Assets of Budget PrePay, Inc. d/b/a Budget Phone by Global Connection Inc. of America*, Notice of Domestic Section 214 Authorization Granted, WC Docket. No. 15-258 (Nov. 30, 2015).

⁹ *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support, Connect America Fund*, WC Docket Nos. 11-42, 09-197, 10-90, Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Order on Reconsideration, Second Report and Order, and Memorandum Opinion and Order, FCC 15-71, ¶ 249 (rel. June 22, 2015) (Second Report and Order or Order on Reconsideration).

¹⁰ *Id.* This portion of the Order has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget and was published in the Federal Register on February 17, 2016. See 81 Fed. Reg. 7999 (Feb. 17, 2016).

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Compliance Plan Updates Due to the Passage of Time

The proposed Compliance Plan has been revised to update the details of Global Connection's wireline operations and Lifeline ETC designations (see pp. 2-3). It also incorporates revisions to Company procedures to reflect changes to Lifeline program rules since May 2012. On pages 6-8, Global Connection provides updates regarding its enrollment process. On page 10, the Company discusses compliance with the new rule requiring retention of proof of eligibility documentation. On pages 11-12, Global Connection commits to de-enrolling customers at their request within two business days. On pages 15-16, the Company updates its annual recertification practices, including sending educational messages about the recertification requirement. On pages 19-20, the Company discusses compliance with the new FCC Form 497 snapshot rule for reimbursements and updates references to the annual ETC filing requirements. On page 10, the Company includes a description of how it "deals directly" with applicants through use of a real-time review queue. On page 17, Global Connection describes how it interacts with the National Lifeline Accountability Database (NLAD) and eliminates language due to the phase out of the in-depth validation (IDV) process.¹¹ Further, the discussions of enrollment and eligibility determination procedures in Section I.B. have been updated and expanded. Current exhibit materials for the Company's wireline Lifeline operations (marketing materials, sample enrollment form, income eligibility worksheet) are included.

Summary

Global Connection hereby submits its proposed wireline Compliance Plan with the above-described revisions. The Company respectfully reiterates its request for expeditious approval of its Compliance Plan in order to ensure continued provision of wireline Lifeline services as discussed herein.

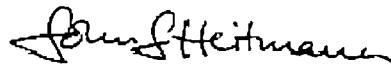
¹¹ The language regarding cooperating with in-depth validation audits was on pages 17-18 of the revised Compliance Plan as submitted on September 17, 2012.

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July 14, 2016
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This letter and revised Compliance Plan is being filed electronically for inclusion in the public record of the above-referenced proceedings. Please feel free to contact the undersigned with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Heitmann". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

John J. Heitmann
Joshua T. Guyan

Counsel to Global Connection Inc. of America

cc: Ryan Palmer
Jodie Griffin
Nathan Eagan

**BEFORE THE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of	
Telecommunications Carriers Eligible to Receive Universal Service Support	WC Docket No. 09-197
Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization	WC Docket No. 11-42
Global Connection Inc. of America	

GLOBAL CONNECTION INC. OF AMERICA WIRELINE SERVICE COMPLIANCE PLAN

Global Connection Inc. of America (Global Connection or the Company),¹ through its undersigned counsel, hereby respectfully submits and requests expeditious approval of its Compliance Plan outlining the measures it will take to implement the conditions imposed by the Commission in its 2012 Lifeline Reform Order and 2015 Lifeline Second Report and Order for its wireline service.² On March 8, 2012, Global Connection separately filed a Compliance Plan for its wireless services, which was most recently revised and re-filed on April 30, 2012. Global

¹ The Company hereby also reports its corporate and trade names, identifiers, and its holding company, operating companies and affiliates as: Real Home Phone (trade name), and Global Connection Holdings Corporation (holding company). This Compliance Plan applies only to Global Connection's wireline Lifeline service offerings.

² See *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Lifeline and Link Up, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Advancing Broadband Availability Through Digital Literacy Training*, WC Docket Nos. 11-42, 03-109, 12-23, CC Docket No. 96-45, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 12-11 (Feb. 6, 2012) (2012 Lifeline Reform Order). See *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support, Connect America Fund*, WC Docket Nos. 11-42, 09-197, 10-90, Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Order on Reconsideration, Second Report and Order, and Memorandum Opinion and Order, FCC 15-71 ¶ 249 (rel. June 22, 2015) (Second Report and Order, Order on Reconsideration or Lifeline Second FNPRM). The Company herein submits the information required by the Compliance Plan Public Notice. See *Wireline Competition Bureau Provides Guidance for the Submission of Compliance Plans Pursuant to the Lifeline Reform Order*, WC Docket Nos. 09-197, 11-42, Public Notice, DA 12-314 (rel. Feb. 29, 2012)(Compliance Plan Public Notice).

Connection's wireless Compliance Plan was approved by the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) on May 25, 2012.³

Global Connection provides wireless service in 24 territories⁴ and prepaid wireline local exchange and long distance services to residential customers in 26 states.⁵ Global Connection currently provides wireline Lifeline service directly to low-income customers in seven states where it has held a wireline eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) designation since before the 2012 Lifeline Reform Order.⁶ In addition, Global Connection provides wireline Lifeline service indirectly to low-income customers in eleven states where it does not hold a wireline ETC designation by reselling AT&T Lifeline service.⁷ Further, Global Connection is in the process of acquiring additional wireline Lifeline customers in one of these eleven states. It will serve these Lifeline customers indirectly by reselling AT&T Lifeline service until its ETC designations are granted or it must cease providing Lifeline discounts. In total, Global Connection currently provides wireline Lifeline service to approximately 10,420 subscribers and is completing the acquisition of another 236 wireline Lifeline customers from Budget Prepay.

4,858 of these Lifeline customers, located in 11 states, are served by the Company through resale

³ See *Wireline Competition Bureau Approves the Compliance Plans of American Broadband & Telecommunications, Budget Prepay, Consumer Cellular, Global Connection, Terracom and Total Call*, WC Docket Nos. 09-197, 11-42, Public Notice, DA 12-828 (2012).

⁴ Those 24 territories are: Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin and West Virginia as well as Puerto Rico.

⁵ Those 26 states are: Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin, and West Virginia. Global Connection also holds domestic interstate and international section 214 authority from the FCC. The Company is properly registered with the FCC to provide telecommunications services pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 64.1195.

⁶ Those states are Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Michigan and North Carolina.

⁷ Those states are Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Mississippi, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Wisconsin.

of an underlying carrier's Lifeline services.

In the Lifeline Second Report and Order released on June 22, 2015, the Commission determined "that only ETCs that provide Lifeline service directly to subscribers will be eligible for reimbursement from the Fund."⁸ The Commission provided a 180-day transition period following the effective date of the order "during which non-ETC resellers may...obtain ETC status..."⁹ Global Connection is in the process of applying for ETC designation in the states where it is necessary to continue to serve its customers. However, in order for the states to grant a wireline ETC designation to Global Connection (and in many cases accept or review a petition), the Bureau must first approve this Compliance Plan. Therefore, to effectuate the Commission's desire in the Second Report and Order to have all Lifeline customers served directly by designated ETCs (and not by Lifeline resale), and avoid terminating essential Lifeline service to thousands of subscribers, Global Connection requests that the Bureau expedite approval of this Compliance Plan, which already has been pending for more than four years.¹⁰

The Company commends the Commission's commitment to a nationwide communications system that promotes the safety and welfare of all Americans, including Lifeline customers. Global Connection complies with 911 requirements as described below and it is submitting this Compliance Plan in order to qualify for blanket forbearance from the

⁸ *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support, Connect America Fund*, WC Docket Nos. 11-42, 09-197, 10-90, Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Order on Reconsideration, Second Report and Order, and Memorandum Opinion and Order, FCC 15-71 ¶ 249 (rel. June 22, 2015) (Second Report and Order or Order on Reconsideration).

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ This Compliance Plan has been pending since June 26, 2012.

facilities requirement of section 214(e)(1)(A) of the Communications Act and participate as an ETC in the Lifeline program.¹¹

Global Connection complies fully with all conditions set forth in the 2012 Lifeline Reform Order, the Second Report and Order, as well as with the Commission's Lifeline rules and policies more generally.¹² This Compliance Plan describes the specific measures that the Company has implemented to achieve these objectives. Specifically, this Compliance Plan: (1) describes the specific measures that Global Connection has taken to implement the obligations contained in the 2012 Lifeline Reform Order, including the procedures the Company follows in enrolling a subscriber in Lifeline and submitting for reimbursement for that subscriber from the Low-Income Fund, materials related to initial and ongoing certifications and sample marketing materials; and (2) provides a detailed description of how Global Connection offers Lifeline services, the geographic areas in which it offers services, and a detailed description of the Company's Lifeline service plan offerings.

ACCESS TO 911 AND E911 SERVICES¹³

Pursuant to the 2012 Lifeline Reform Order, forbearance is conditioned upon the Company: (1) providing its Lifeline subscribers with 911 and E911 access, regardless of

¹¹ See 2012 Lifeline Reform Order ¶ 368. Although Global Connection qualifies for and seeks to avail itself of the Commission's grant of forbearance from the facilities requirement of section 214(e)(1)(A) for purposes of the federal Lifeline program, the Company reserves the right to demonstrate to a state public utilities commission that it provides service using its own facilities in a state for purposes of state universal service funding under state program rules and requirements. Global Connection will follow the requirements of the Commission's Lifeline rules and this Compliance Plan in all states in which it provides Lifeline service and receives reimbursements from the federal Low-Income Fund, including in any state where the public utilities commission determines that Global Connection provides service using its own facilities for purposes of a state universal service program.

¹² Global Connection will update its associated Lifeline program forms and advertising, whenever necessary, to reflect Commission changes to the applicable Lifeline program rules.

¹³ See Compliance Plan Public Notice at 3.

activation status and availability of minutes; and (2) providing its Lifeline subscribers with E911-compliant handsets and replacing, at no additional charge to the subscriber, noncompliant handsets of Lifeline-eligible subscribers who obtain Lifeline-supported services.¹⁴ The Company complies with the Commission's 911 and E911 requirements for its wireline services, however, the handset requirement is not applicable to Global Connection's wireline services.

The Company will provide its Lifeline customers with access to 911 and E911 services immediately upon activation of service. The Commission and consumers are hereby assured that all Company customers will have available access to emergency calling services at the time that Lifeline voice telephony service is initiated, and that such 911 and E911 access will be available using the Company's services at all times until service is disconnected.

Global Connection's existing practices currently provide access to 911 and E911 services for all customers. The Company uses AT&T, CenturyLink, Windstream, Verizon and Frontier West as its underlying network providers/carriers. These underlying carriers route 911 calls from the Company's customers in the same manner as 911 calls from their own retail customers.

E911-Compliant Handsets. As discussed above, this requirement does not apply to Global Connection's wireline services.

¹⁴ See 2012 Lifeline Reform Order ¶ 373.

COMPLIANCE PLAN

I. PROCEDURES TO ENROLL A SUBSCRIBER IN LIFELINE¹⁵

A. Policy

Global Connection complies with the uniform eligibility criteria established in section 54.409 of the Commission's rules, as well as any additional certification and verification requirements for Lifeline eligibility in states where the Company is designated as an ETC.

Therefore, all subscribers are required to demonstrate eligibility based at least on: (1) household income at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a household of that size;¹⁶ or (2) the household's participation in one of the federal assistance programs listed in sections 54.409(a)(2) or 54.409(a)(3) of the Commission's rules. In addition, through the certification requirements described below and through use of the National Lifeline Accountability Database (NLAD), the Company confirms that the subscriber is not already receiving a Lifeline service and no one else in the subscriber's household is subscribed to a Lifeline service.

B. Eligibility Determination

Customers can enroll in Global Connection's wireline Lifeline service in-person, by calling the Company's customer service center or online. Approximately 40 percent of the Company's customer enrollment is done in-person at store locations that sell Global Connection services, as opposed to over the phone or the Internet. Global Connection currently has nearly 500 active agent locations, generally at retail locations such as convenience and check cashing

¹⁵ See Compliance Plan Public Notice at 3.

¹⁶ Some states set the household income threshold higher. Global Connection adheres to the standard set in each state, as long as the Commission's Lifeline rules allow.

stores.¹⁷ All agents enrolling Lifeline customers for Global Connection have a portal login, which allows them to enroll customers and provide the required disclosures, collect the required information and receive the required certifications as set forth in the Company's Lifeline application/certification form. The applicant populates the application form with the assistance of the agent as necessary or requested, which is then printed for the applicant's review, signature and date. The enrolling agent is then required to fax or email the application and proof of eligibility to Global Connection for review as discussed in further detail below.

At such locations, Global Connection may require prospective customers to show a valid government-issued photo identification¹⁸ and the address is checked against the E911 database to clear service from Global Connection's underlying providers. Each prospective customer is checked against the NLAD to ensure that the applicant does not already receive Lifeline service before the customer is enrolled.¹⁹

Customers that enroll by calling Global Connection's customer service number are sent an application/certification form to complete, sign and return by electronic mail, fax, or U.S. mail along with a copy of the prospective customer's proof of eligibility. Customers can also enroll by printing an application online to complete and sign and return by electronic mail, fax, or U.S. mail along with a copy of the prospective customer's proof of eligibility.

As discussed in further detail in Section I.F. below, all employees or agents (Company personnel) that conduct such in-person enrollments are trained regarding the eligibility and certification requirements in the 2012 Lifeline Reform Order and this Compliance Plan,

¹⁷ Global Connection does not enroll Lifeline applicants at mobile enrollment events at this time, but may do so in the future.

¹⁸ Any identification documentation collected, including documentation used in NLAD processes to verify identity is retained pursuant to the Order on Reconsideration. *See Order on Reconsideration* ¶ 224, *supra* n. 2 at p. 1.

¹⁹ *See infra* Section I.F. regarding use of the NLAD.

including the one-per-household requirement, and are told to inform potential customers of those requirements. New Company personnel undergo an initial mandatory training session where they are given training materials, as well as shown visual examples of acceptable documents to demonstrate eligibility for the Lifeline program.

If Global Connection cannot determine a prospective subscriber's eligibility for Lifeline by accessing income databases or program eligibility databases, Company personnel will review documentation establishing eligibility pursuant to the Lifeline rules.²⁰ All personnel who interact with current or prospective customers will be trained to assist Lifeline applicants in determining whether they are eligible to participate based on the federal and state-specific income-based and/or program-based criteria. These personnel will be trained to answer questions about Lifeline eligibility, and will review required documentation to determine whether it satisfies the Commission's rules and state-specific eligibility requirements using state-specific checklists.

Proof of Eligibility. Company personnel will be trained on acceptable documentation required to establish income-based and program-based eligibility.²¹ Acceptable documentation of program eligibility includes: (1) the current or prior year's statement of benefits from a qualifying state, federal or Tribal program; (2) a notice letter of participation in a qualifying state, federal or Tribal program; (3) program participation documents (*e.g.*, the consumer's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) electronic benefit transfer card or Medicaid participation card (or copy thereof)); or (4) another official document evidencing the consumer's

²⁰ See 2012 Lifeline Reform Order ¶ 100; 47 C.F.R. § 54.410(b)(1)(i)(B), 47 C.F.R. § 54.410(c)(1)(i)(B).

²¹ See 2012 Lifeline Reform Order ¶ 101. See also USAC Guidance available at <http://www.usac.org/li/program-requirements/verify-eligibility/>.

participation in a qualifying state, federal or Tribal program.²²

Acceptable documentation of income eligibility includes the prior year's state, federal, or Tribal tax return; current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub; a Social Security statement of benefits; a Veterans Administration statement of benefits; a retirement/pension statement of benefits; an Unemployment/Workmen's Compensation statement of benefits; federal or Tribal notice letter of participation in General Assistance; or a divorce decree, child support award, or other official document containing income information for at least three months time.²³ If the prospective subscriber presents the Company with documentation of income that does not cover a full year, the prospective subscriber must present the same type of documentation covering three consecutive months within the previous twelve months.²⁴

Company personnel will examine this documentation for each Lifeline applicant, and will record the type of documentation used to satisfy the income or program-based criteria by checking the appropriate box on the application form.²⁵ In addition, Company personnel will fill in, where available, the last four digits of an account or other identifying number on the proof document, the date of the proof document and the expiration of the proof document. The Company complies with the new requirement to retain and protect proof of eligibility.²⁶ Where the Company personnel conclude that proffered documentation is insufficient to establish such eligibility, Global Connection will deny the associated application and inform the applicant of

²² See 2012 Lifeline Reform Order ¶ 101; 47 C.F.R. § 54.410(c)(1)(i)(B). See also USAC Guidance available at <http://www.usac.org/li/program-requirements/verify-eligibility/program-eligibility.aspx>.

²³ See 2012 Lifeline Reform Order ¶ 101; 47 C.F.R. § 54.410(b)(1)(i)(B).

²⁴ See *id.*

²⁵ See 2012 Lifeline Reform Order ¶ 101; 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.410(b)(1)(iii), 54.410(c)(1)(iii).

²⁶ See Order on Reconsideration ¶ 221, *supra* n. 2 at p. 1.; 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.404(b)(11), 54.410(b)(1)(ii), 54.410(c)(1)(ii).

the reason for such rejection. In the event that Company personnel cannot ascertain whether documentation of a specific type is sufficient to establish an applicant's eligibility, the matter will be escalated to supervisory personnel. In addition, a Global Connection employee will be responsible for overseeing and approving every Lifeline application prior to enrolling the applicant for Lifeline service and including that customer on an FCC Form 497 for reimbursement.

Further, Global Connection will not enroll customers at retail locations where Global Connection does not have an agency agreement with the retailer. Global Connection will require an agent retailer to have any employees involved in the enrollment process go through the standard Global Connection training process, just as it would for any other Company personnel. By establishing agency relationships with all of its Company personnel, including future retail outlets, Global Connection meets the "deal directly" requirement adopted in the TracFone Forbearance Order.²⁷

The Commission determined in the 2012 Lifeline Reform Order that ETCs may permit agents or representatives to review documentation of consumer program eligibility for Lifeline because "the Commission has consistently found that '[I]censees and other Commission regulatees are responsible for the acts and omissions of their employees and independent contractors.'"²⁸ Global Connection is responsible for the actions of all of its employees and agents, including those enrolling customers in any Global Connection owned or affiliated retail locations, and a Global Connection employee will be responsible for overseeing and finalizing every Lifeline application prior to approving the applicant and including that customer on an

²⁷ See Petition of TracFone Wireless, Inc. for Forbearance from 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1)(A) and 47 C.F.R. § 54.201(i), CC Docket No. 96-45, Order, FCC 05-165 ¶19 (2005).

²⁸ 2012 Lifeline Reform Order ¶ 110.

FCC Form 497 for reimbursement. The Company will therefore always “deal directly” with its customers to certify and verify the customer’s Lifeline eligibility.

De-Enrollment for Ineligibility. If Global Connection has a reasonable basis to believe that one of its Lifeline subscribers no longer meets the eligibility criteria, the Company will notify the subscriber of impending termination in writing, will comply with any state dispute resolution procedures applicable to Lifeline termination, and will give the subscriber 30 days to demonstrate continued eligibility.²⁹ A demonstration of eligibility must comply with the annual verification procedures below and found in rule section 54.410(f), including the submission of a certification form.

Although not currently required by the Commission’s rules, if a customer contacts the Company and states that he or she is not eligible for Lifeline or wishes to de-enroll for any reason, the Company will de-enroll the customer within two business days.³⁰ Customers can make this request by calling the Company's customer service number and will not be required to submit any documents. Customers can call customer service by dialing 1-877-511-3009 from any phone. Live customer service and bilingual operators can currently be reached from 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM Eastern, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

C. Subscriber Certifications for Enrollment

Global Connection will implement certification policies and procedures that enable consumers to demonstrate their eligibility for Lifeline assistance to Company personnel as detailed in the 2012 Lifeline Reform Order, together with any additional state certification

²⁹ See *id.* ¶ 143; 47 C.F.R. § 54.405(e)(1).

³⁰ See *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support, Connect America Fund*, WC Docket Nos. 11-42, 09-197, 10-90, Third Report and Order, Further Report and Order, and Order on Reconsideration, FCC 16-38 ¶ 421 (rel. Apr. 27, 2016).

requirements.³¹ The Company shares the Commission's concern about abuse of the Lifeline program and is thus committed to the safeguards stated herein, with the belief that these procedures will prevent the Company's customers from engaging in such abuse of the program, inadvertently or intentionally. Every applicant will be required to complete an application/certification form containing disclosures, and collecting certain information and certifications as discussed below.³² Applicants that seek to enroll based on income eligibility will be referred to a worksheet showing the Federal Poverty Guidelines by household size.³³ Applicants that do not complete the form in person will be required to return the signed application/certification to the Company by mail, facsimile, electronic mail or other electronic transmission. In addition, Company personnel will orally explain the certifications to consumers when they are enrolling in person or over the phone.³⁴

Disclosures. The Company's application and certification forms will include the following disclosures: (1) Lifeline is a federal benefit and willfully making false statements to obtain the benefit can result in fines, imprisonment, de-enrollment or being barred from the program; (2) only one Lifeline service is available per household; (3) a household is defined, for purposes of the Lifeline program, as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses; (4) a household is not permitted to receive Lifeline benefits from multiple providers; (5) violation of the one-per-household limitation constitutes a violation of the Commission's rules and will result in the applicant's de-enrollment

³¹ 2012 Lifeline Reform Order ¶ 61; 47 C.F.R. § 54.410(a).

³² See Model Application/Certification Form, included as Exhibit A. See Compliance Plan Public Notice at 3.

³³ See Income Eligibility Worksheet, included as Exhibit B.

³⁴ See 2012 Lifeline Reform Order ¶ 123.

from the program; and (6) Lifeline is a non-transferable benefit and the applicant may not transfer his or her benefit to any other person.³⁵

Applications and certification forms will also state that: (1) the service is a Lifeline service, (2) Lifeline is a government assistance program, and (3) only eligible consumers may enroll in the program.³⁶

Information Collection. The Company also will collect the following information from the applicant in the application/certification form: (1) the applicant's full name; (2) the applicant's full residential address (P.O. Box is not sufficient³⁷); (3) whether the applicant's residential address is permanent or temporary; (4) the applicant's billing address, if different from the applicant's residential address; (5) the applicant's date of birth; (6) the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number (or the applicant's Tribal identification number, if the subscriber is a member of a Tribal nation and does not have a Social Security number); (7) if the applicant is seeking to qualify for Lifeline under the program-based criteria, the name of the qualifying assistance program from which the applicant, his or her dependents, or his or her household receives benefits; and (8) if the applicant is seeking to qualify for Lifeline under the income-based criterion, the number of individuals in his or her household.³⁸

Applicant Certification. Consistent with rule section 54.410(d)(3), the Company will require the applicant to certify, under penalty of perjury, in writing or by electronic signature or interactive voice response recording,³⁹ the following: (1) the applicant meets the income-based or program-based eligibility criteria for receiving Lifeline; (2) the applicant will notify the

³⁵ See *id.* ¶ 121; 47 C.F.R. § 54.410(d)(1).

³⁶ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.405(c).

³⁷ See 2012 Lifeline Reform Order ¶ 87.

³⁸ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.410(d)(2).

³⁹ See 2012 Lifeline Reform Order ¶¶ 168-69; 47 C.F.R. § 54.419.

Company within 30 days if for any reason he or she no longer satisfies the criteria for receiving Lifeline including, as relevant, if the applicant no longer meets the income-based or program-based criteria for receiving Lifeline support, the applicant is receiving more than one Lifeline benefit, or another member of the applicant's household is receiving a Lifeline benefit; (3) if the applicant is seeking to qualify for Lifeline as an eligible resident of Tribal lands, he or she lives on Tribal lands; (4) if the applicant moves to a new address, he or she will provide that new address to the Company within 30 days; (5) if the applicant provided a temporary residential address to the Company, the applicant will be required to verify his or her temporary residential address every 90 days; (6) the applicant's household will receive only one Lifeline service and, to the best of the applicant's knowledge, the applicant's household is not already receiving a Lifeline service; (7) the information contained in the applicant's certification form is true and correct to the best of the applicant's knowledge; (8) the applicant acknowledges that providing false or fraudulent information to receive Lifeline benefits is punishable by law; and (9) the applicant acknowledges that the applicant may be required to re-certify his or her continued eligibility for Lifeline at any time, and the applicant's failure to re-certify as to the applicant's continued eligibility will result in de-enrollment and the termination of the applicant's Lifeline benefits pursuant to the de-enrollment policy included above and in the Commission's rules.

In addition, the applicant will be required to authorize Global Connection to access any records required to verify the applicant's statements on the application/certification form and to confirm the applicant's eligibility for the Company Lifeline credit.⁴⁰ The applicant must also authorize the Company to release any records required for the administration of the Company

⁴⁰ See 2012 Lifeline Reform Order ¶¶ 168-69; 47 C.F.R. § 54.419.

Lifeline credit program, including to USAC to be used in a Lifeline program database.⁴¹

D. Annual Verification Procedures

Global Connection annually re-certifies all subscribers by querying the appropriate eligibility databases or obtaining a signed certification from each subscriber consistent with the certification requirements above and section 54.410(d) of the Commission's rules. This certification includes a confirmation that the applicant's household will receive only one Lifeline service and, to the best of the subscriber's knowledge, the subscriber's household is receiving no more than one Lifeline service.⁴² Further, the verification materials inform the subscriber that he or she is being contacted to re-certify his or her continuing eligibility for Lifeline and if the subscriber fails to respond, he or she will be de-enrolled from the program.⁴³

Verification De-Enrollment. Global Connection de-enrolls subscribers that do not respond to the annual verification or fail to provide the required certification.⁴⁴ The Company sends a single written notice explaining that failure to respond to the re-certification request within 30 days will result in the subscriber's de-enrollment from the Lifeline program. If the subscriber does not respond within the 30 days, the Company de-enrolls the subscriber within five business days.⁴⁵

⁴¹ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.404(b)(9). The application/certification form will also describe the information that will be transmitted, that the information is being transmitted to USAC to ensure the proper administration of the Lifeline program and that failure to provide consent will result in the applicant being denied the Lifeline service. See 47 C.F.R. § 54.404(b)(9).

⁴² See 2012 Lifeline Reform Order ¶ 120.

⁴³ See *id.* ¶ 145.

⁴⁴ See *id.* ¶ 142; 47 C.F.R. § 54.54.405(e)(4).

⁴⁵ Global Connection also sends messages to its customers to educate them regarding the annual recertification process and requirement, as contemplated by the 2012 Lifeline Reform Order. This type of educational recertification message is consistent with the 2012 Lifeline Reform Order, which states that "ETCs and states may also choose to notify subscribers about the recertification requirements in their Lifeline outreach materials. By taking these actions, ETCs and states will ensure that consumers are aware of the importance of responding to re-certification

E. Activation and Non-Usage

Global Connection's wireline service offerings are prepaid and the Company does assess and collect a monthly fee from each wireline subscriber. Each customer is required to prepay for the Lifeline service offering chosen each month or the service is disconnected. Customers often make payments in person at Global Connection store locations. Therefore, Global Connection's wireline customers have a regular billing relationship with the Company and the activation and non-usage requirements do not apply.⁴⁶

F. Additional Measures to Prevent Waste, Fraud and Abuse

To supplement its verification and certification procedures, and to better ensure that customers understand the Lifeline service restrictions with respect to duplicates, Global Connection has implemented measures and procedures to prevent duplicate Lifeline benefits being awarded to the same household. These measures entail additional emphasis in written disclosures as well as live due diligence.

Database. The Company complies with the requirements of the NLAD and section 54.404 of the Commission's rules. As such, the Company queries the NLAD for every enrollment⁴⁷ to determine whether a prospective subscriber is currently receiving a Lifeline service from another ETC and whether anyone else living at the prospective subscriber's residential address is currently receiving Lifeline service.⁴⁸

efforts, and that they are not inadvertently disconnected due to a lack of understanding of program rules." 2012 Lifeline Reform Order ¶ 145.

⁴⁶ See 2012 Lifeline Reform Order ¶¶ 257, 263; 47 C.F.R. § 54.407(c).

⁴⁷ With the limited exception of states that have opted out of the NLAD. In those states, Global Connection will query the state duplicates database.

⁴⁸ See 2012 Lifeline Reform Order ¶ 203. The Company transmits to the NLAD the information required for each new Lifeline subscriber. See *id.* ¶¶ 189-195; 47 C.F.R. § 54.404(b)(6). Further, the Company updates each subscriber's information in the NLAD within ten business

In addition to checking the NLAD, Company personnel emphasize the “one Lifeline phone per household” restriction in their direct sales contacts with potential customers. Training materials include a discussion of the limitation to one Lifeline phone per household, and the need to ensure that the customer is informed of this restriction. All customer-facing employees and agents must demonstrate understanding of the Commission’s and Global Connection’s rules and policies by completing the Company’s Lifeline training and passing a Company issued exam. The training will be updated as needed, and will be reviewed no less frequently than every 90 days. Further, Global Connection employs a dedicated compliance officer to oversee training and compliance matters.

One-Per-Household Certification. Global Connection has implemented the requirements of the 2012 Lifeline Reform Order to ensure that it provides only one Lifeline benefit per household⁴⁹ through the use of its application/certification forms discussed above, internal database checks and its marketing materials discussed below. Upon receiving an application for the Company’s Lifeline service, the Company will search its own internal records to ensure that it does not already provide Lifeline-supported service to someone at the same residential address.⁵⁰ If so, and the applicant lives at an address with multiple households, the Company will require the applicant to complete and submit a written USAC document containing the

days of any change, except for de-enrollment, which will be transmitted within one business day. *See* 47 C.F.R. § 54.404(b)(8),(10). These statements are not applicable in states that have opted out of the NLAD.

⁴⁹ A “household” is any individual or group of individuals who are living together at the same address as one economic unit. A household may include related and unrelated persons. An “economic unit” consists of all adult individuals contributing to and sharing in the income and expenses of a household. An adult is any person eighteen years or older. If an adult has no or minimal income, and lives with someone who provides financial support to him/her, both people shall be considered part of the same household. Children under the age of eighteen living with their parents or guardians are considered to be part of the same household as their parents or guardians. *See* 2012 Lifeline Reform Order ¶ 74; 47 C.F.R. § 54.400(h).

⁵⁰ *See* 2012 Lifeline Reform Order ¶ 78.

following: (1) an explanation of the Commission’s one-per-household rule; (2) a check box that an applicant can mark to indicate that he or she lives at an address occupied by multiple households; (3) a space for the applicant to certify that he or she shares an address with other adults who do not contribute income to the applicant’s household and share in the household’s expenses or benefit from the applicant’s income, pursuant to the Commission’s definition; and (4) the penalty for a consumer’s failure to make the required one-per-household certification (*i.e.*, de-enrollment).⁵¹

In addition, Company personnel will inform each Lifeline applicant that he or she may be receiving Lifeline support under another name, and facilitate the applicant’s understanding of what constitutes “Lifeline-supported services,” and the ability to determine whether he or she is already benefiting from Lifeline support, by informing the consumer that not all Lifeline services are currently marketed under the name Lifeline.

Marketing Materials. The Company includes the following information regarding its Lifeline service on all marketing materials describing the service: (1) it is a Lifeline service, (2) Lifeline is a government assistance program, (3) the service is non-transferable, (4) only eligible consumers may enroll in the program, (5) the program is limited to one discount per household; (6) that documentation is necessary for enrollment; and (7) Global Connection’s name (the ETC).⁵² These statements are included in all print, audio video and web materials (including social networking media) used to describe or enroll customers in the Company’s Lifeline service offering, as well as the Company’s application/certification forms.⁵³ This specifically includes

⁵¹ *Id.* The USAC worksheet is available at <http://www.lifelinesupport.org/ls/eligibility/default.aspx#household>.

⁵² *See* 2012 Lifeline Reform Order ¶ 275; 47 C.F.R. § 54.405(c).

⁵³ *See id.* ¶ 275; 47 C.F.R. § 54.405(c).

the Company's website (www.ConnectWithGlobal) and outdoor signage.⁵⁴ A sample of the Company's marketing materials is included as **Exhibit C**. In addition, the Company's application/certification forms will state that consumers who willfully make a false statement in order to obtain the Lifeline benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the Program.

G. Company Reimbursements from the Fund

To ensure that Global Connection does not seek reimbursement from the Fund without a subscriber's consent, the Company certifies, as part of each reimbursement request, that it is in compliance with all of the Commission's Lifeline rules and, to the extent required, has obtained valid certification and verification forms from each of the subscribers for whom it is seeking reimbursement.⁵⁵ Further, the Company will comply with the Commission's requirement to use a first day of the month uniform snapshot date to request reimbursement from USAC for the provision of Lifeline support when the revised Section 54.407 goes into effect.⁵⁶ In addition, the Company will keep accurate records as directed by USAC⁵⁷ and as required by section 54.417 of the Commission's rules.

H. Annual Company Certifications

The Company submits an annual FCC Form 481 filing to the Commission by July 1st of each year, certifying the Company's business and affiliate information, and terms and conditions

⁵⁴ See *id.* ¶ 275; 47 C.F.R. § 54.405(c).

⁵⁵ See *id.* ¶ 128; 47 C.F.R. § 54.407(d).

⁵⁶ See Second Report and Order ¶¶ 238-243, *supra* n. 2 at p. 1. Global Connection notes, however, that a number of ETCs filed a Petition for Reconsideration regarding the snapshot, which remains pending with the Commission. See *Wireless ETC Petitioners' Petition for Reconsideration and Clarification*, WC Docket Nos. 11-42, 09-197, 10-90 (filed Aug. 13, 2015).

⁵⁷ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.407(e).

of any voice telephony plans offered to Lifeline subscribers.⁵⁸ The Company also submits an annual Form 555 filing to the Commission, certifying under penalty of perjury that the Company: (1) has policies and procedures in place to ensure that its Lifeline subscribers are eligible to receive Lifeline services; and (2) that the Company is in compliance with all federal Lifeline certification procedures.⁵⁹ The Company provides the results of its re-certification efforts, performed pursuant to section 54.410(f) of the Commission's rules, annually by January 31st, for its certification efforts of the previous year.⁶⁰

II. Description of Lifeline Service Offerings⁶¹

Global Connection will offer its prepaid wireline Lifeline service in the study areas in the states where it is designated as an ETC⁶² and throughout the coverage area of its underlying provider(s). The Company's Lifeline offerings vary based on the underlying provider. Global Connection resells AT&T service in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas and offers a Lifeline-discounted Basic Package⁶³ for \$20.70⁶⁴, an Advantage Package⁶⁵ for \$25.70 and a Premium Package⁶⁶ for \$30.70 to eligible Lifeline customers. Global Connection resells

⁵⁸ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.422.

⁵⁹ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.416(a).

⁶⁰ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.416(b).

⁶¹ See Compliance Plan Public Notice at 3.

⁶² Global Connection is currently designated as a wireline ETC in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Michigan and North Carolina.

⁶³ The Basic Package includes unlimited local calling, 911 and a published phone number.

⁶⁴ That rate, and all rates provided in this section, reflect the Lifeline discount.

⁶⁵ The Advantage Package adds to the Basic Package: Caller ID, Call Waiting and 100 minutes of domestic long distance.

⁶⁶ The Premium Package adds to the Advantage Package: Three-Way Calling, Call Forwarding, Repeat Dial, Call Selector, Call Block and Call Return.

CenturyLink and Level 3 service in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas and offers a Lifeline-discounted Basic Package⁶⁷ for \$32.95 and an Advantage Package⁶⁸ for \$49.95 to eligible Lifeline customers. The Company resells Windstream service in Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina and Texas and offers a Lifeline-discounted Basic Package⁶⁹ for \$36.70 and an Advantage Package⁷⁰ for \$46.70 to eligible Lifeline customers. Finally, Global Connection resells Verizon and Frontier West services in Alabama, Florida, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas and offers a Lifeline-discounted Basic Package⁷¹ for \$36.70 and an Advantage Package⁷² for \$46.70 to eligible Lifeline customers. Global Connection has resale agreements with each of these underlying providers for local exchange services. For example, Global Connection purchases Local Wholesale Complete services (UNE) from AT&T.

Customers of any service package can purchase 250 domestic long-distance minutes for \$5.00 or unlimited domestic long-distance for \$10.00. Additional information regarding the Company's plans, rates and services can be found on its website www.ConnectWithGlobal.com.

III. Demonstration of Financial and Technical Capabilities and Certifications Required for ETC Designation⁷³

Financial and Technical Capabilities. Section 54.202(a)(4), 47 C.F.R. 54.202(a)(4), requires carriers petitioning for ETC designation to demonstrate financial and technical

⁶⁷ The Basic Package includes unlimited local calling, 911 and a published phone number.

⁶⁸ The Advantage Package adds to the Basic Package: Caller ID and Call Waiting.

⁶⁹ The Basic Package includes unlimited local calling, 911 and a published phone number.

⁷⁰ The Advantage Package adds to the Basic Package: Caller ID and Call Waiting.

⁷¹ The Basic Package includes unlimited local calling, 911 and a published phone number.

⁷² The Advantage Package adds to the Basic Package: Caller ID and Call Waiting.

⁷³ See Compliance Plan Public Notice at 3.

capability to comply with the Commission's Lifeline service requirements.⁷⁴ The Compliance Plan Public Notice requires that a carriers' compliance plan include this demonstration. Among the factors the Commission will consider are: a carrier's prior offering of service to non-Lifeline subscribers, the length of time the carrier has been in business, whether the carrier relies exclusively on Lifeline reimbursement to operate; whether the carrier receives revenues from other sources and whether the carrier has been the subject of an enforcement action or ETC revocation proceeding in any state.

Global Connection has been offering non-Lifeline and Lifeline wireline service since 1998 and began providing non-Lifeline and Lifeline-supported wireless service in April 2011. The Company generates substantial revenues from non-Lifeline services, which represent nearly a quarter of its wireline customers. Consequently, to date, Global Connection has not relied (and does not rely) exclusively on Lifeline reimbursements for the Company's operating revenues. Global Connection also has access to capital from its investors. Through its interests in Global Holdings, the majority owner of Global Connection is Milestone Partners, a Pennsylvania private equity firm. Moreover, one of the Company's minority investors, Banyan Investments, a Florida mezzanine investment firm, has made and continues to make additional funding available as needed.

With respect to technical expertise, Global Connection has demonstrated its capabilities over eighteen years of operations, now providing service pursuant to wireline and wireless ETC designations in twenty-seven jurisdictions. Moreover, the Company has considerable experience complying with the requirements of the federal Lifeline program. Global Connection's long-time management team brings together expertise in the telecommunications compliance field and

⁷⁴ See 2012 Lifeline Reform Order ¶¶ 387-388 (revising Commission rule 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(4)).

specific in-depth knowledge of Global Connection with which to guide the Company's decisions going forward and its adherence to this revised Compliance Plan. The combination of Global Connection's proven telecommunications capabilities and the business expertise and financial support of the Company's investors will enable Global Connection to achieve measurable growth at the same time as it develops improved operating efficiencies. Both are necessary components for the Company to thrive.

Finally, the Company has not been subject to enforcement sanctions related to the Low-Income Fund or ETC revocation proceedings in any state. The Company did enter into a Consent Order with the Georgia Public Service Commission on December 13, 2010 during the course of Global Connection's application for wireline ETC status in Georgia, relating to the inclusion of a surcharge on bills to collect from customers contributions to the Georgia Universal Access Fund, and charging customers a late fee and a processing fee for switching carriers or terminating service, in a manner inconsistent with its tariff.⁷⁵ Global Connection agreed to pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$55,000 and its ETC application was ultimately granted by the Georgia Public Service Commission on February 22, 2011.

Service Requirements Applicable to the Company's Support. The Compliance Plan Public Notice requires carriers to include "certifications required under newly amended section 54.202 of the Commission's rules."⁷⁶ Global Connection certifies that it will comply with the service requirements applicable to the support the Company receives.⁷⁷ The Company provides all of the telecommunications service supported by the Lifeline program and will make the services available to all qualified consumers throughout the states in which it is designated as an

⁷⁵ See *Order Adopting Consent Order*, Docket No. 9322, Document No. 133041 (Dec. 22, 2010), included as Exhibit D.

⁷⁶ Compliance Plan Public Notice at 3.

⁷⁷ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(1).

ETC. The Company's services include voice telephony services that provide voice grade access to the public switched network or its functional equivalent. Further, the Company's service offerings, included in Section II *supra*, provide its customers with unlimited minutes of use for local service, and can be used for local and domestic toll service.

The Company also will provide access to emergency services provided by local government or public safety officials, including 911 and E911 where available and will comply with any Commission requirements regarding E911 compliance. As discussed above, the Company will comply with the Commission's applicable forbearance grant conditions relating to the provision of 911 and E911 services.

Finally, Global Connection provides toll limitation service (TLS) to its Lifeline customers at no cost, which allows low-income consumers to avoid unexpected toll charges.⁷⁸ The Company's Lifeline wireline offerings include unlimited local calling and some plans include prepaid long distance minutes. All customers can purchase unlimited domestic long distance for \$10.00 per month or 250 minutes of domestic long distance for \$5.00 per month. Customers are not permitted to make long distance calls beyond the minutes prepaid. Therefore, customers cannot be disconnected for failure to pay toll charges, nor are there additional charges for exceeding their minutes because customers are not permitted to exceed their long distance minutes. Global Connection's long distance vendor monitors and controls long-distance usage by end users and blocks long distance calling if the customer has not prepaid for such service.

IV. Conclusion

Global Connection submits that its Compliance Plan fully satisfies the conditions set forth in the Commission's 2012 Lifeline Reform Order, the Compliance Plan Public Notice and

⁷⁸ See 2012 Lifeline Reform Order ¶ 230.

the Lifeline rules. Further, approval of this Compliance Plan is necessary to allow Global Connection to obtain the ETC designations necessary to effectuate the Commission's desire in the Second Report and Order to have all Lifeline customers served directly by designated ETCs (and not by Lifeline resale), and avoid terminating essential Lifeline service to thousands of subscribers. Accordingly, the Company respectfully requests that the Commission expeditiously approve its Compliance Plan.

Respectfully submitted,



John J. Heitmann
Joshua T. Guyan
Kelley Drye & Warren LLP
3050 K Street, NW
Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20007
(202) 342-8544

Counsel to Global Connection Inc. of America

July 14, 2016

Exhibit A

Model Application/Certification Form

Global Connection Inc. of America

Tel: 1-877-511-3009 • Fax: 1-888-878-9323
P.O. Box 48269 Atlanta, GA 30362-1269



WIRELINE LIFELINE SERVICE APPLICATION AND CERTIFICATION GEORGIA

A complete and signed Lifeline Service Application and Certification ("Certification") is required to enroll you in Global Connection Inc. of America ("the Company's") Lifeline service program in your state. This Certification is only for the purpose of verifying your eligibility for Lifeline service and will not be used for any other purpose. Service requests will not be processed until this Form has been received and verified by Company. One Lifeline service per household disclosures: Lifeline is a government assistance program and willfully making false statements to obtain a Lifeline benefit can result in fines, imprisonment, de-enrollment or being barred from the program. Lifeline benefits are limited to a single line of service per household. A household is defined, for purposes of the Lifeline program, as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. A household may not receive multiple Lifeline discounts. You may apply your Lifeline discount to either one landline or one wireless number, but you cannot have the discount on both and you cannot receive Lifeline benefits from multiple providers. Note that not all Lifeline services are currently marketed under the name Lifeline. Lifeline is a non-transferable benefit and you may not transfer your benefit to any other person, including another eligible low-income consumer. Violation of the one-per-household limitation constitutes a violation of the Federal Communications Commission's rules and will result in your de-enrollment from the program, and potentially prosecution by the United States Government.

I hereby certify, under penalty of perjury, that I have read and understood the disclosures listed above. I hereby certify, under penalty of perjury, that to the best of my knowledge, my household is not already receiving a Lifeline service benefit. I hereby certify that I am receiving Lifeline benefits from another carrier; however, with this application I would like to transfer my benefits to Global Connection. I understand the change will change my existing telephone phone number.

Customer eligibility certification: I hereby certify that I participate in at least one of the following programs (check one):

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) | <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior citizen low-income discount plan offered by the local gas or power company |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Section 8 Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA) | <input type="checkbox"/> Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid (not Medicare) | <input type="checkbox"/> National School Lunch Program (free program only) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental Security Income (SSI) | <input type="checkbox"/> Income at or below 135% of Federal Poverty Guidelines | |

Tribal eligibility: I hereby certify that I reside on Federally-recognized Tribal lands. Unresolved questions or complaints concerning Lifeline service can be directed to the Georgia Public Service Commission's Consumer Affairs Unit at 404-656-4501 or 1-800-282-5813.

Customer Application Information:

First Name _____ Middle Name _____ Last Name _____

Date of Birth: Month: _____ Day: _____ Year: _____ Last Four Digits of Social Security Number or Tribal ID Number: _____

If Qualifying for Lifeline by Income, number of Individuals in Household: _____ Home Telephone Number (if available): _____

Residential Address (P.O. Box NOT sufficient) Address is (choose one): Permanent Temporary Contact Number _____

Number: _____ Apt: _____ Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Billing Address (if different from Residential Address) (P.O. Box IS sufficient) Email: _____

Number: _____ Apt: _____ Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Multiple households sharing an address:

- I hereby certify that I reside at an address occupied by multiple households, including adults who do not contribute income to my household and/or share in my household's expenses.
- Letter of Authorization: This letter is a written authorization, to designate Global Connection Inc. of America to act as my agent in order to change the following: long distance carrier from my current telecommunications carrier to Global Connection Inc. of America long distance service, local exchange carrier from my current telecommunications carrier to Global Connection Inc. of America, I am authorized to request changes on this account. I further understand that there may be a charge for each provider change and could involve a charge for the changing back to the original primary carrier. Subscribers selecting the electronic signature option and or the IVR (Interactive Voice Response) to be considered a "writing", any name or symbol of subscriber affixed to or contained in the electronic Letter of Authorization shall be deemed to be the Subscriber's valid signature expressing intent to be bound to this Letter of Authorization and the applicable tariffs.

Authorizations:

- I hereby authorize the Company to access any records required to verify my statements on this form and to confirm my eligibility for the Lifeline program. I also authorize the Company to release any records required for the administration of the Lifeline program (name, telephone number and address, DOB, last four digits of SSN or Tribal ID, amount of support sought, means of qualification, dates of service initiation/termination), including to the Universal Service Administrative Company, to be used in a Lifeline database and to ensure the proper administration of the Lifeline Program. Failure to consent will result in denial of service.

If Qualifying person is different (Example: Child on School Lunch): _____

Name of qualifying individual

(if different than applicant; if different see Additional Certifications): _____

- The individual named on the documentation you provided to demonstrate eligibility is part of your household and does not already receive Lifeline benefits.

Additional certifications. I hereby certify, under penalty of perjury, that (Check the box next to each line):

- I meet the income-based or program-based eligibility criteria for receiving Lifeline service and have provided documentation of eligibility if required
- I will notify the Company within 30 days if for any reason I no longer satisfy the criteria for receiving Lifeline including, as relevant, if I no longer meet the income-based or program-based eligibility criteria, I begin receiving more than one Lifeline benefit, or another member of my household is receiving a Lifeline benefit. I understand that I may be subject to penalties if I fail to follow this requirement
- I am not listed as a dependent on another person's tax return (unless over the age of 60)
- The address listed is my primary residence, not a second home or business
- I acknowledge that providing false or fraudulent information to receive Lifeline benefits is punishable by law
- I acknowledge that I may be required to re-certify my continued eligibility for Lifeline at any time, and my failure to re-certify as to my continued eligibility within 30 days will result in de-enrollment and the termination of my Lifeline benefits
- The information contained in this certification form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant's Signature:

Date: _____

FOR AGENT USE ONLY (check the appropriate boxes for the proof of eligibility viewed; do not copy or retain documentation):

Documents Acceptable Proof for Income-Eligibility (check 1):

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The prior year's state, federal, or Tribal tax return, | <input type="checkbox"/> A Veterans Administration statement of benefits, | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal or Tribal notice letter of participation in General Assistance, or | If the documentation of income does not cover a full year, the applicant must present the same type of documentation covering 3 consecutive months within the previous 12 months. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub, | <input type="checkbox"/> A retirement/pension statement of benefits | <input type="checkbox"/> A divorce decree, child support award, or other official document containing income info. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A Social Security statement of benefits, | <input type="checkbox"/> An Unemployment/Workmen's Compensation statement of benefits, | | |

Documents Acceptable Proof for Program-Eligibility (choose 1 from each list A and B below):

List A - Choose 1

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Medicaid
- Section 8 Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

- Senior citizen low-income discount plan offered by the local gas or power company
- National School Lunch Program (free program only)

List B - Choose 1:

- Program participation card/document
- Prior year's statement of benefits
- Notice letter of participation
- Other official document evidencing participation _____

Last 4 digits of Doc / ID# from List B _____

Date of Proof Document: _____

Expiration Date of Proof Document: _____

Applicant Account Number: _____

Agent/Dealer Number: _____

Exhibit B

Income Eligibility Worksheet

AZ, KS, MI, NM, OH, TX & VT*

Individuals are able to enroll in the Lifeline program by demonstrating that their household's annual income is at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. This table should be used to determine whether a Lifeline applicant is eligible for Lifeline service based on the number of individuals in the applicant's household and the applicant's household annual income:

*Vermont individuals over the age of 65.

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	INCOME LEVEL
1	\$17,820
2	\$24,030
3	\$30,240
4	\$36,450
5	\$42,660
6	\$48,870
7	\$55,095
8	\$61,335
For each additional person	Add \$6,240

All Other Contiguous States and DC**

Individuals in these states are able to enroll in the Lifeline program by demonstrating that their household's annual income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. This table should be used to determine whether a Lifeline applicant is eligible for Lifeline service based on the number of individuals in the applicant's household and the applicant's household annual income:

**Excluding CA.

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	INCOME LEVEL
1	\$16,038
2	\$21,627
3	\$27,216
4	\$32,805
5	\$38,394
6	\$43,983
7	\$49,586
8	\$55,202
For each additional person	Add \$5,616

Applicants must list the number of individuals in the applicant's household on the Lifeline application form. Applicants seeking to qualify for Lifeline service based on their household income must present one of the following documents in order to prove eligibility:

- The prior year's state, federal, or Tribal tax return
- Current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub
- A Social Security statement of benefits
- A Veterans Administration statement of benefits
- A retirement/pension statement of benefits
- An Unemployment/Workmen's Compensation statement of benefits
- Federal or Tribal notice letter of participation in General Assistance
- A divorce decree, child support award, or other official document
- If the documentation of income does not cover a full year, the applicant must present the same type of documentation covering 3 consecutive months within the previous 12 months

This is a Lifeline service provided by Global Connection Inc. of America. Lifeline is a government assistance program. Only one Lifeline service is available per household. Households are not permitted to receive multiple Lifeline benefits whether they are from one or multiple companies, wireless or wireline. Proof of eligibility is required for enrollment and only eligible customers may enroll in Lifeline service. Consumers who willingly make false statements to obtain the benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the program. Lifeline is a non-transferable benefit. Lifeline customers may not transfer their benefits to any other person.

IMPORTANT

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LIFELINE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA Please check your eligibility on the list below

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (Food Stamps); Low Income Heat & Energy Assistance (LIHEAP); Supplemental Security Income (SSI); Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8); Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); National Free School Lunch Program (NSL); Medicaid; AL, AK, AZ, AR, CA, CO, CT, DE, DC, FL, GA, GU, HI, ID, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MP, MO, MT, NE, NV, NH, NJ, NM, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VT, VA, WA, WV, WI, WY, PR.	Bureau of Indian General Assistance; AK, CA, FL, KS, LA, MN, OK, RI, UT	Food Distribution on Tribal Lands; FL, KS, LA, MN, OK, RI, UT	150% of Federal Poverty Guidelines or Below; AZ, CA, KS, MI, NM, OH, TX, VT
Head Start (Income Qualifying / Tribal Lands Only); AK, CA, FL, KS, LA, MN, OK, RI, UT	135% of Federal Poverty Guidelines or Below; AL, AK, AR, CO, CT, DE, DC, FL, GA, GU, HI, ID, IL, IN, IA, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MN, MP, MS, MT, NE, NV, NH, NJ, NY, NC, ND, OK, OR, PA, PR, RI, SC, SD, TN, UT, VA, WA, WV, WI, WY.	State has specific qualifying Programs (Check with us); AK, AR, CA, FL, GA, ID, KS, ME, MD, MA, MN, NE, NJ, NY, OH, OK, OR, RI, TX, UT, VT, VA, USVI, WA, WV, WI, WY	
Tribally Administered TANF; AK, CA, FL, KS, LA, MN, OK, RI, UT			

Customers may contact their State Public Service or Public Utility Commission with any unresolved questions or complaints concerning Lifeline services:

Colorado Public Utilities Commission Consumer Affairs at 303-894-2070 or 800-456-0658	Georgia Public Service Commission's Consumer Affairs Unit at 404-656-4501 or 800-282-5813	Kansas Commission's Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection at 785-271-3140 or 800-662-0027 TDD 800-766-3777	Massachusetts Consumer Division Dept. of Telecommunications & Cable 617-305-3531 or 800-392-6066
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Global Connection Inc. of America

Exhibit C
Marketing Materials

GREAT LIMITED TIME OFFER ACT NOW!

SAY HELLO TO REAL HOME PHONE BIG SAVINGS\$

First Month
~~\$38.45~~ FREE!*

LIFELINE ADVANTAGE PACKAGE
• Caller ID • Call Waiting • 100 Minutes Long Distance
• Unlimited Local • Emergency 911 Access
\$25.70* Per Month

UNLIMITED LONG DISTANCE MINUTES
Easy 1+ dialing. NO ACCESS CODE REQUIRED
\$10

We proudly accept Global Connection Real Home Phone Service payments

- ✓ Unlimited Local Calls
- ✓ No Credit Check
- ✓ No Contract
- ✓ Great Plans
- ✓ No Deposit

If you receive Government supported services such as Food Stamps, SSI or Medicaid, you may be eligible for a **Lifeline Discount** on your home telephone service.

See back for contact information.
Hablamos español



REP: Agustin Iyer REW001-000115

*Restrictions apply. Go to www.RealHomePhone.com for details. AT&T service only. Includes qualified Lifeline Discount. Plus Taxes fees and surcharges. For Lifeline eligible customers only.



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ACÉRCATE
AL ASISTENTE
DE TIENDA PARA
REGISTRARTE AHORA!

**DILE HOLA
AL SERVICIO LEGITIMO
DE TELEFONO DE CASA**

**GRANDES
AHORROS**

PRIMER MES

~~\$38.45~~ GRATIS!

LIFELINE **PAQUETE AVANZADO**
• Identificador de llamadas • Llamada en espera
• 100 minutos de larga distancia • Llamadas locales
ilimitadas • Acceso al 911
\$25.70* AL MES

**LARGA DISTANCIA
ILIMITADA**
\$10 AL MES
Fácil acceso
Marcando 1+
No se requiere
código de acceso

Con gusto aceptamos pagos de Global Connection Servicio legitimo de casa.

- ✓ Llamadas locales ilimitadas
- ✓ No verificamos crédito
- ✓ Magníficos planes
- ✓ No contratos
- ✓ No deposito

Si recibe algún tipo de ayuda de Gobierno tales como Cupones de Alimentos, SSI ó Medicaid, Usted puede ser elegible para un descuento Lifeline teléfono de casa.

**Ver al respaldo Para contactarse
y recibir información**
English available



PHIP Agent Peter SPAN (P. 001) 1-660-15

*Restricciones aplican. Visite www.RealHomePhone.com para detalles. Exclusivo AI&I área. Incluye descuento calificado de LIFELINE. Más impuestos y recargos. Para clientes Elegibles de Lifeline solamente.



**Legítimo
SERVICIO
TELEFÓNICO
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- ✓ No contratos
- ✓ No deposito

Si recibe algún tipo de ayuda de Gobierno tales como Cupones de Alimentos, SSI ó Medicaid, Usted puede ser elegible para un descuento Lifeline teléfono de casa.

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PHIP Agent Peter SPAN (P. 001) 1-660-15

*Restricciones aplican. Visite www.RealHomePhone.com para detalles. Exclusivo AI&I área. Incluye descuento calificado de LIFELINE. Más impuestos y recargos. Para clientes Elegibles de Lifeline solamente.



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servicio al Consumidor Comisión
de Asuntos 303-894-2070 ó
800-456-0858.

Georgia comisión de Servicios
Públicos de asuntos al
consumidor al 404-656-4501 ó
al 1800-282-5813

Kansas Oficina de la Comisión de los
asuntos públicos protección al
consumidor en 785-271-3140 ó al
800-662-0027. TDD 800-766-3777

Massachusetts División de
Telecomunicaciones y Cable
617-305-3531 ó 800-392-6066.

IMPORTANTE INFORMACIÓN DE SERVICIO DE LIFELINE PARA SERVICIO RESIDENCIAL:

Lifeline es un programa de asistencia del gobierno. Sólo un servicio Lifeline está disponible por hogar. Una violación de las normas por la Comisión Federal de Comunicaciones de un servicio por hogar constituye en la cancelación del programa. No está permitido recibir múltiples beneficios de Lifeline en un solo hogar, ya sean de una o varias compañías. Esto incluye el servicio residencial y móvil. Lifeline es un beneficio que no es transferible a otra persona. Usted debe activar su servicio y usar el teléfono para continuar recibiendo el servicio. Lifeline es un beneficio federal. Haciendo declaraciones falsas voluntariamente para obtener el beneficio puede resultar en multas, prisión, cancelación del servicio o ser excluidos del programa. Se requiere prueba de elegibilidad para inscribirse. El comprobante puede consistir en tarjeta de programa elegible o declaración de beneficiario. Los suscriptores elegibles para Lifeline se les ofrecen nuestra tarifa más baja de teléfono de casa de \$20.70 por mes, más impuestos solo en el área de AT&T.

CRITERIO DE ELEGIBILIDAD PARA LIFELINE	Revisar su elegibilidad en la siguiente lista:
Programa de Asistencia de Nutrición Complementaria (SNAP) (Cupones para alimentos), Asistencia de Calificación y Energía para personas con bajos ingresos (LIHEAP), Seguro de Ingreso Complementario (SSI), Asistencia de vivienda pública federal (Sección 8), Ayuda temporal para familias necesitadas (TANF), Programa nacional de almuerzos escolares gratuitos (NSL), Medicaid, AL, AK, AZ, AR, CA, CO, CT, DE, DC, FL, GA, GU, HI, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MP, MO, MT, NE, NV, NH, NJ, NM, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VT, VA, WA, WV, WI, WY, PR.	100% de los beneficiarios de potencias federales o por debajo de ellas, AZ, KS, MI, NM, OH, TX, VT El estado tiene programas de calificación específicos (Consultar), AK, AR, CA, FL, GA, ID, KS, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MP, MO, MT, NE, NV, NH, NJ, NY, OH, OK, OR, RI, TX, UT, VT, VA, WA, WV, WI, WY, PR
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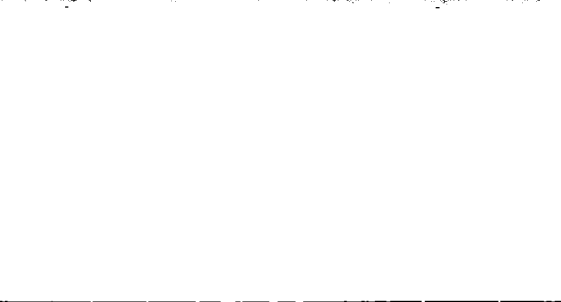
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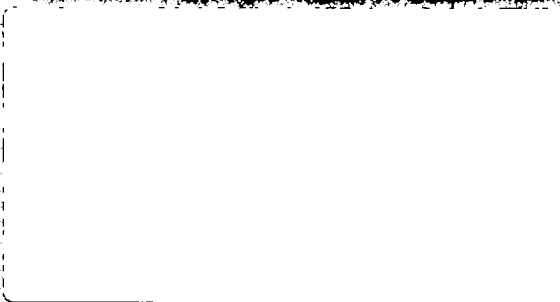


Exhibit D

Georgia Public Service Commission Order

COMMISSIONERS:

LAUREN "BUBBA" McDONALD, JR., CHAIRMAN
STAN WISE
ROBERT B. BAKER, JR.
CHUCK EATON
H. DOUG EVERETT



FILED

DEC 28 2010

DEBORAH K. FLANNAGAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
G.P.S.C. REECE McALISTER
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Georgia Public Service Commission

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(800) 282-5813

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ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334-5701

FAX: (404) 656-2341
www.psc.state.ga.us

DOCKET# 9322
DOCUMENT# 133041

Docket No. 9322

IN RE: Application of Global Connection, Inc. for Certificate of Authority to Provide Local Exchange Service

ORDER ADOPTING CONSENT ORDER

This matter comes before the Georgia Public Service Commission ("Commission") to consider the proposed Consent Order (Attachment "A") between the Commission Staff and Global Connection, Inc. ("Global Connection").

JURISDICTION

1.

Global Connection holds the following certificates from the Georgia Public Service Commission: Competitive Local Exchange Carrier Certificate of Authority, L-091, and Resale Certificate of Authority, R-0576.

2.

Global Connection is a "telecommunications company" as that term is defined under O.C.G.A. § 46-5-162(17).

3.

The Commission has general authority and jurisdiction over telecommunications companies pursuant to Georgia's Telecommunications and Competition Development Act of 1995 ("Telecom Act"), O.C.G.A. §§ 16-5-160 through 174, and generally O.C.G.A. §§ 46-1-1 through 5, 46-2-20, 46-2-21 and 46-2-23. In addition, upon a finding that a company subject to its jurisdiction willfully violates any law it administers or any duly promulgated regulation issued thereunder, or fails, neglects, or refuses to comply with any duly noticed order it issues, the Commission may assess a civil penalty not to

exceed \$15,000.00 for such violation and an additional penalty not to exceed \$10,000.00 for each day during which such violation continues. O.C.G.A. § 46-2-91(a).

Background

1.

On August 25, 2010, Global Connection filed an Application for Approval of Eligible Telecommunications Company Status. In the course of its review of Global's application, the Commission Staff discovered three violations of Georgia law and Commission orders. These violations are detailed in the Consent Order that is attached as Exhibit A to this Order. A summary of these violations is provided below.

2.

From its investigation, the Commission Staff found that, for at least the time period of July, 2008 through August, 2010, Global Connection included a surcharge on its bills to collect from customers its contributions to the Universal Access Fund.

3.

Staff also determined that Global Connection charged a late fee in excess of the amount permitted in its Commission-approved tariff to an estimated 5,500 customers in Georgia.

4.

Finally, Staff determined that, beginning in or before July, 2008, the customer bills issued by Global Connection included a processing fee associated with switching carriers or terminating service that was inconsistent with the provisions of its Commission-approved tariff.

5.

To resolve these violations, Global Connection entered into a Consent Order with the Commission Staff in which it agreed to pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$55,000.00. Under the terms of the Consent Order, Global Connection shall pay no less than \$18,334.00 by the first business day of January 2011. For each of the two months thereafter, Global Connection shall make an additional payment to the Commission on the first of the month in the amount of \$18,333.00. Global Connection may, at its sole option, pay the balance due at any time before March 1, 2011.

6.

Also, to resolve these violations, beginning with its next billing cycle, Global Connection agreed to make the modifications to its customer bills that are necessary to comply with the Commission-approved tariff.

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1.

After considering the proposed Consent Order, the Commission finds and concludes that the terms and conditions of the Stipulation are reasonable. The Commission finds that the amount of the civil penalty is reasonable, in light of the totality of the facts set forth in the Consent Order. The appropriate amount of a civil penalty involves judgment, and may be specific to the facts of the particular case. The penalty provided for in the Consent Order is sufficient to preserve the integrity of the Commission's rules, orders and administration of Georgia law.

2.

The record in this case shows that for at least the time period of July, 2008 through August, 2010, Global Connection included a surcharge on its bills to collect from customers its contributions to the Universal Access Fund ("UAF"). (Consent Order, ¶ 6). This action violates O.C.G.A. § 46-5-167(g), which provides that "A local exchange company or other company shall not establish a surcharge on customers' bills to collect from customers' contributions [to the UAF]." The Commission administers this statute. O.C.G.A. §§ 46-5-162(4) and 46-5-167.

3.

The record also shows that Global Connection recovered from an estimated 5,500 customers a late penalty of \$10.00. (Consent Order, ¶¶ 8, 10). The Commission-approved tariff sets a maximum late penalty of 1.5 percent of the past due amounts. *Id.* at ¶ 7. The monthly charge for Global Connection's service is approximately \$50.00. *Id.* at ¶ 9. The Commission finds that the late fee Global Connection recovered from these customers exceeded the late fee set forth in the Company's applicable tariff provision. The Commission approved this tariff; therefore, Global Connection's actions violated what is, in effect, an order of the Commission.

4.

Finally, the facts show that Global Connection's customer bills stated that a \$25.00 processing fee applied in the event that a customer switched to another carrier or disconnected service. (Consent Order, ¶ 12). However, Section 2.13 of Global Connection's Commission-approved local service tariff does not authorize the imposition of this processing fee in those instances in which a customer cancels service after service has been installed. The Commission concludes that the customer bills do not comply with the applicable tariff provision. The Commission approved this tariff; therefore, Global Connection's actions violated what is, in effect, an order of the Commission.

5.

The Commission also finds that it is reasonable to require Global Connection to modify its customer bills to comply with the Commission-approved tariff beginning with the next billing cycle.

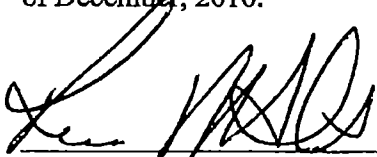
WHEREFORE IT IS ORDERED, that the Commission hereby adopts as an Order of this Commission, the Consent Order signed by the Commission Staff and Global Connection dated December 13, 2010, and attached as "Exhibit A" to this Order.

ORDERED FURTHER, that all findings, conclusions, statements, and directives made by the Commission and contained in the foregoing sections of this Order are hereby adopted as findings of fact, conclusions of law, statements of regulatory policy, and orders of this Commission.

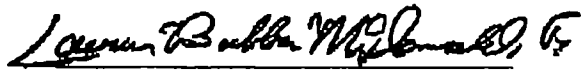
ORDERED FURTHER, that a motion for reconsideration, rehearing, or oral argument or any other motion shall not stay the effective date of this Order, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission.

ORDERED FURTHER, that jurisdiction over these matters is expressly retained for the purpose of entering such further Order or Orders as this Commission may deem just and proper.

The above by action of the Commission in Administrative Session on the 21st day of December, 2010.



Reece McAlister
Executive Secretary



Lauren "Bubba" McDonald, Jr.
Chairman

12-22-10
Date

12-22-10
Date

BEFORE THE
GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

FILED

DEC 18 2010

**IN RE: Application of Global Connection, Inc. for Certificate of Authority to
 Provide Local Exchange Service**

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
G.P.S.C.**

CONSENT ORDER

The Staff of the Georgia Public Service Commission and Global Connection, Inc. ("Global Connection") hereby agree to present the following proposed disposition of the violations detailed herein to the Commission.

BACKGROUND AND LEGAL AUTHORITY

1.

Global Connection holds the following certificates from the Georgia Public Service Commission: Competitive Local Exchange Carrier Certificate of Authority, L-091, and Resale Certificate of Authority, R-0576.

2.

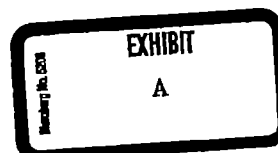
Global Connection is a "telecommunications company" as that term is defined under O.C.G.A. § 46-5-162(17).

3.

The Commission has general authority and jurisdiction over telecommunications companies pursuant to Georgia's Telecommunications and Competition Development Act of 1995 ("Telecom Act"), O.C.G.A. §§ 16-5-160 through 174, and generally O.C.G.A. §§ 46-1-1 through 5, 46-2-20, 46-2-21 and 46-2-23. In addition, upon a finding that a company subject to its jurisdiction willfully violates any law it administers or any duly promulgated regulation issued thereunder, or fails, neglects, or refuses to comply with any duly noticed order it issues, the Commission may assess a civil penalty not to exceed \$15,000.00 for such violation and an additional penalty not to exceed \$10,000.00 for each day during which such violation continues. O.C.G.A. § 46-2-91(a).

4.

On August 25, 2010, Global Connection filed an Application for Approval of Eligible Telecommunications Company Status. In the course of its review of Global's application, the Commission Staff discovered three violations of Georgia law and Commission orders.



5.

Pursuant to the Telecom Act, the Commission created a Universal Access Fund “to assure the provision of reasonably priced access to basic local exchange services throughout Georgia.” O.C.G.A. § 46-5-167(a). All certified telecommunications companies in Georgia are required to make quarterly contributions to the fund. O.C.G.A. § 46-5-167(b). Companies are prohibited from establishing a surcharge on customers’ bills to collect this contribution from customers. O.C.G.A. § 46-5-167(g).

6.

From its investigation, the Commission Staff found that, for at least the time period of July, 2008 through August, 2010, Global Connection included a surcharge on its bills to collect from customers its contributions to the Universal Access Fund. This action by Global Connection violated O.C.G.A. § 46-5-167(g).

7.

Section 2.15 of Global Connection’s Commission-approved local service tariff is entitled “Late Payment Charge.” This section states that “Invoices more than thirty (30) days past due will incur a monthly finance charge on the unpaid balance at a rate equal to the lesser of one and one-half percent (1.5%) per month or the maximum rate permitted by applicable Regulation.”

8.

The Commission Staff found that, for at least the time period of July, 2008 through August 2010, bills issued by Global Connection to its customers in Georgia stated that “[a] \$10.00 Late Fee Will Be Applied to Accounts When Payment Is Not Posted By Due Date.”

9.

The monthly charge a customer receiving local telecommunications service from Global Connection is approximately \$50.00. Therefore, the late fee that Global Connection included on its customer bills significantly exceeded the late fee permitted pursuant to its Commission-approved tariff.

10.

Based on discovery responses and discussions between Staff and Global Connection, the parties estimate that Global Connection collected the excessive late fee from about 5,500 customers in Georgia.

11.

Section 2.13 of Global Connection’s Commission-approved local service tariff states that “Customers who cancel a Service Order prior to Service installation (including without limitation cancellation of special construction or Services provided on an individual case basis will incur a

charge equal to the greater of (i) the non-recurring charges for the MSP, or (ii) the company's reasonably incurred, actual expenses associated with such cancellation."

12.

Beginning in or before July, 2008, Global Connection's bills issued by Global Connection to its customers in Georgia stated that "If this invoice is **PAID IN FULL**, [Global Connection] will issue a refund in the event of switching to another carrier or disconnection occurs prior to Bill Due Date, **minus a \$25 processing fee.**" (emphasis in original).

13.

Global Connection's Commission-approved local service tariff does not authorize the imposition of the processing fee described in paragraph 12 in those instances in which a customer cancels service after service has been installed. Therefore, the customer bills do not comply with the Commission-approved tariff.

AGREEMENT

The parties to this Consent Agreement are desirous of resolving this matter and believe that it is in the public interest to do so under the terms and conditions described herein. The undersigned parties hereby agree that this matter should be disposed of as follows:

1.

This Consent Agreement, if approved by the Commission, shall constitute a Final Order resolving the violations discussed herein. The parties agree that they will abide by the terms of the Consent Agreement.

2.

The Consent Agreement shall not become effective until approved without modification by the Commission. This Consent Agreement shall be void and of no effect whatsoever if it is not approved in its entirety by action of the Commission.

3.

Global Connection agrees to pay to the Commission in certified funds a civil penalty in the amount of \$55,000.00. Global Connection shall pay no less than \$18,334.00 by the first business day of January 2011. For each of the two months thereafter, Global Connection shall make an additional payment to the Commission on the first of the month in the amount of \$18,333.00. Global Connection may, at its sole option, pay the balance due at any time before March 1, 2011.

4.

Beginning with its next billing cycle, Global Connection shall make the modifications to its customer bills that are necessary to comply with the Commission-approved tariff.

5.

By entering into this Consent Agreement, Global Connection does not waive any notice, right, hearing, claim or defense with regard to any future action brought against it by the Commission or by any other person.

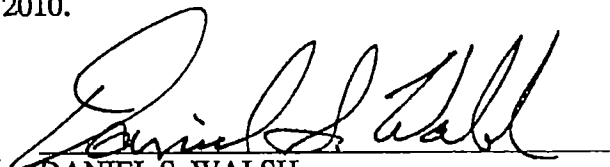
6.

Nothing in this Consent Agreement shall be construed to relieve Global Connection from its responsibility to comply with the terms and conditions of its Certificates of Authority, the rules and regulations of the Commission, and the laws of the State of Georgia.

7.

Each of the undersigned acknowledges that he has read this Consent Agreement and understands its contents. Each of the undersigned acknowledges that the party he or she represents freely, knowingly and voluntarily enters into this consent Agreement. Each of the undersigned parties hereby consents to the resolution of this proceeding as provided.

Agreed to this 13th day of December 2010.



DANIEL S. WALSH

Senior Assistant Attorney General



GLOBAL CONNECTION, INC.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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DA 16-905

Released: August 10, 2016

WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU APPROVES THE WIRELINE COMPLIANCE PLANS OF GLOBAL CONNECTION AND PHONE CLUB CORPORATION

WC Docket No. 09-197
WC Docket No. 11-42

The Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) approves the wireline compliance plans¹ of Global Connection, Inc. of America and Phone Club Corporation, filed pursuant to the *2015 Lifeline FNPRM and Order*² and the *2012 Lifeline Reform Order*,³ as a condition of obtaining forbearance from the facilities requirement of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the Act), for the continued provision of Lifeline service.⁴

In the *2015 Lifeline FNPRM and Order*, the Commission amended the Lifeline program rules to eliminate Lifeline reimbursement for wholesale service provided to resellers.⁵ Only ETCs providing Lifeline service directly to the consumer may seek reimbursement from the Lifeline program for the service provided.⁶ Effective August 15, 2016, non-ETC resellers will no longer be eligible to receive support for the provision of Lifeline service, and they must obtain approval of a Lifeline compliance plan in order to obtain ETC designations from state regulators or the Commission.

Global Connection, Inc. currently provides resold wireline Lifeline service to nearly 5,000 eligible customers in states where it does not have an ETC designation for its wireline services.⁷ Phone Club Corporation provides resold wireline Lifeline service in Florida, where it does not have an ETC designation.⁸ Accordingly, Global Connection, Inc. and Phone Club Corporation each seek approval of their respective amended Lifeline compliance plans for wireline service as prerequisites to obtaining the

¹ See Revised Wireline Compliance Plan of Global Connection Inc. of America, WC Docket No. 09-197, 11-42 (filed Jul. 14, 2016); Revised Compliance Plan of Phone Club Corporation, WC Docket No. 09-197, 11-42 (filed July 26, 2016).

² *In the Matter of Lifeline & Link Up Reform & Modernization*, 30 FCC Rcd 7818 (2015) (*2015 Lifeline FNPRM and Order*).

³ *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization et al*, 27 FCC Rcd 6656 (2012) (*2012 Lifeline Reform Order*).

⁴ See *id.*, 27 FCC Rcd at 6816, paras. 379-380.

⁵ *2015 Lifeline FNPRM and Order*, 30 FCC Rcd at 7899, para. 244.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Letter from John Heitmann and Joshua Guyan, Counsel to Global Connection Inc. of America, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket No. 09-197, 11-42, at 3 (filed Jul. 14, 2016) (Global Connection Letter).

⁸ Revised Compliance Plan of Phone Club Corporation at 2-3.

necessary ETC designations from the relevant state commissions and preventing any disruption of the Lifeline benefit for impacted wireline customers.⁹

The Act provides that in order to be designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier for the purpose of universal service support, a carrier must “offer the services that are supported by Federal universal service support mechanisms . . . either using its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale of another carrier’s services”¹⁰ In the 2012 *Lifeline Reform Order*, the Commission found that a grant of blanket forbearance of the facilities requirement, subject to certain public safety and compliance obligations, is appropriate for carriers seeking to provide Lifeline-only service.¹¹ The Commission also conditionally granted forbearance from the Act’s facilities requirement to all telecommunications carriers seeking Lifeline-only ETC designation, subject to the following conditions: (1) compliance with certain 911 and enhanced 911 (E911) public safety requirements; and (2) Bureau approval of a compliance plan providing specific information regarding the carrier and its service offerings and outlining the measures the carrier will take to implement the obligations contained in the *Order*.¹²

The Bureau has reviewed Global Connection Inc.’s and Phone Club Corporation’s wireline compliance plans for conformance with the *2015 Lifeline FNPRM and Order* and the *2012 Lifeline Reform Order*, and now approves the compliance plans.

Filings, including the above-discussed compliance plans, and comments are available for public inspection and copying during regular business hours at the FCC Reference Information Center, Portals II, 445 12th Street, S.W., Room CY-A257, Washington, D.C. 20554. They may also be purchased from the Commission’s duplicating contractor, Best Copy and Printing, Inc., Portals II, 445 12th Street, S.W., Room CY-B402, Washington, D.C. 20554, telephone: (202) 488-5300, fax: (202) 448-5563, or via email www.bcpweb.com.

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For further information, please contact Nathan Eagan, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau at (202) 418-0991 or TTY (202) 418-0484.

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⁹ *Id.* at 2; Global Connection Letter at 3.

¹⁰ 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1)(A).

¹¹ *See 2012 Lifeline Reform Order*, 27 FCC Rcd at 6813-18, paras. 368-381.

¹² *See id.*, 27 FCC Rcd at 6814, 6819, paras. 373 and 389. Subsequently, the Bureau provided guidance for carriers submitting compliance plans pursuant to the *2012 Lifeline Reform Order*. *See Wireline Competition Bureau Provides Guidance for the Submission of Compliance Plans Pursuant to the Lifeline Reform Order*, Public Notice, 27 FCC Rcd 2186 (WCB 2012).

Managerial & Technical Qualifications

Dave Skogen, *Chief Executive Officer*

Dave is a twenty-plus year veteran executive in the telecommunications industry. Dave joined the Company as COO in November of 2010 and was promoted to CEO in January of 2011. Since then, Dave has transformed the company from a small wireline company operating in five states to a wireline and wireless operation with ETC approvals in over twenty-five states. Prior to joining Global, Dave held a number of positions of increasing responsibility with MCI and Verizon including Executive Director and General Manager in charge of the company's Prepaid business unit. Dave holds a BBA-Finance from the University of Iowa and is a member of the Global Board of Directors, the Young Presidents Organization (ypo.org) and a Board Member of the National Lifeline Association (nalalifeline.org).

Edward Smith, *Chief Financial Officer*

Ed is an accomplished financial executive leading Fortune 500 financial divisions with a specialization in transforming underperforming departments, processes and systems into workable solutions that help achieve corporate objectives. He is a hands-on operational manager and a member of the executive management team, reporting to board level executives and providing strategy and business generating ideas and solutions.

Ed was recruited to MCI to help lead the company out of bankruptcy by reengineering all Revenue and Accounts Receivable systems and procedures and leading over 550 accounting professionals in one of the largest bankruptcies and restatements in US history. With strong and proven technical skills, Ed targets productivity and process improvements demanding that controls, reliability and information availability remain at the forefront.

Ed has a 30-year financial career including Billing and Commissions Operations, Business and Capital Planning, Contract Management and SEC reporting. He holds a MAcc from the University of Georgia and is a Certified Public Accountant.