

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION OF T-MOBILE)	
CENTRAL LLC AND POWERTEL/MEMPHIS,)	
INC. FOR CONVERSION OF ITS HIGH-COST)	
ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER)	CASE NO.
DESIGNATION AND FOR RELINQUISHMENT)	2020-00415
OF ITS MOBILITY FUND I ELIGIBLE)	
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER)	
DESIGNATION PURSUANT TO)	
47 U.S.C. § 214(E)(4))	

ORDER

On July 14, 2010, the Commission granted the request of T-Mobile Central LLC and PowerTel/Memphis, Inc. (collectively, T-Mobile) for designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC).¹ T-Mobile was authorized to receive Federal High-Cost and Low-Income support for the purpose of providing Lifeline, in addition T-Mobile was eligible to receive Low-Income support from the State Universal Service Fund. On May 18, 2012, the Commission issued an Order in Case No. 2012-00135,² granting T-Mobile conditional designation as an ETC for purposes of participating in the Mobility Fund Phase I auction. On December 22, 2020, T-Mobile petitioned the Commission

¹ Case No. 2010-00050, *Petition of T-Mobile Central LLC and Powertel/Memphis, Inc. for Designation as Eligible Telecommunications Carriers Pursuant to Section 214(E)(2) of The Communications Act of 1934* (Ky. PSC July 14, 2010).

² Case No. 2012-00135, *Application of T-Mobile Central LLC and Powertel/Memphis, Inc. for Conditional Designation as Eligible Telecommunications Carriers for the Purpose of Establishing Eligibility to Participate in the Mobility Fund Phase I Auction on September 27, 2012 at the Federal Communications Commission* (Ky. PSC May 18, 2012).

pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4) for partial relinquishment of its ETC status in Kentucky. T-Mobile responded to one request for information from the staff on February 1, 2021.

T-Mobile is a facilities-based wireless provider serving customers throughout Kentucky. The service area is currently served by numerous wireline and wireless telecommunications services, including various alternative ETCs.³

Under § 214(e)(4) of the Act, a State commission shall permit a carrier to relinquish its ETC designation in any area served by more than one ETC. Following relinquishment of T-Mobile's ETC designation, there will continue to be several ETCs in the study area that provide service. Because other ETCs currently serve the entire area in which T-Mobile is designated an ETC in Kentucky, notice need not be provided to those carriers to permit them to purchase or construct facilities to ensure that T-Mobile's customers will continue to receive service.

T-Mobile states in the application that effective December 31, 2020, it will no longer seek or receive any High-Cost support from the federal USF.⁴ T-Mobile requests that its ETC designation be converted to a Lifeline only ETC.⁵ T-Mobile seeks to only provide Lifeline service in the original service area designation in Case No. 2010-00050.⁶ T-Mobile does not seek, nor does it have any Lifeline customers in the MF I service area.⁷

³ *Id.* at 3.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Response to Commission Staff's First Request for Information (filed Feb. 1, 2021), Item 1.

⁷ Response to Commission Staff's First Request for Information (filed Feb. 1, 2021), Item 2 and 3.

47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4) states in part:

The state commission shall permit an eligible telecommunications carrier to relinquish its designation as such a carrier in any area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier. An eligible telecommunications carrier that seeks to relinquish its eligible telecommunications carrier designation for an area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier shall give advance notice to the State commission of such relinquishment. Prior to permitting a telecommunications carrier designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier to cease providing universal service in an area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier, the State commission shall require the remaining eligible telecommunications carrier or carriers to ensure that all customers served by the relinquishing carrier will continue to be served, and shall require sufficient notice to permit the purchase or construction of adequate facilities by any remaining eligible telecommunications carrier. The state commission shall establish a time, not to exceed one year after the State commission approves such relinquishment under this paragraph, within which such purchase or construction shall be completed.

The Commission finds that, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 214(e)(4) above, there is more than one ETC in the area of relinquishment and those carriers have sufficient facilities for the provision of service. T-Mobile does not serve any Lifeline customers in the relinquishment area and therefore notice to its customers to enable those customers to seek alternative service providers is not necessary.⁸

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. T-Mobile's request to modify its ETC status to a Lifeline only ETC is granted.
2. T-Mobile shall offer Lifeline service within the service area designated in

Case No. 2010-00050.

⁸ Response to Commission Staff's First Request for Information (filed Feb. 1, 2021), Item 3.

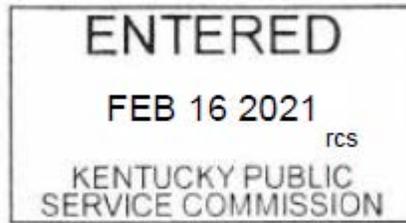
3. T-Mobile is no longer authorized to receive high-cost support from the federal USF.

4. The Executive Director shall serve a copy of this Order upon the FCC and the Universal Service Administrative Company.

5. This case is closed and removed from the Commission's docket.

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By the Commission



ATTEST:


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