

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION OF EASY)	
TELEPHONE SERVICE COMPANY D/B/A EASY)	CASE NO.
WIRELESS FOR AMENDMENT OF ITS ELIGIBLE)	2024-00003
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER)	
DESIGNATION)	

ORDER

On January 10, 2024, Easy Telephone Service Company d/b/a Easy Wireless (Easy Wireless), filed an application seeking to expand its eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) service area for the purpose of providing Lifeline service to all eligible low-income households on its service area. Easy Wireless is a reseller of Commercial Mobile Radio Service, also known as Mobile Virtual Network Operator. Easy Wireless was granted ETC designation by the Commission in Case No. 2011-00137 for the purpose of receiving federal Lifeline support.¹ The Commission granted Easy Wireless limited ETC designation in Kentucky subject to the non-rural and rural coverage area of its underlying carrier, Sprint Spectrum.² Since that time, Sprint Spectrum and T-Mobile US, Inc. (T-Mobile) have merged and now operate as T-Mobile.³ Easy Wireless continues to use the T-Mobile network as its underlying carrier. Easy Wireless seeks to expand its ETC

¹ Case No. 2011-00137, *Application of Easy Telephone Service Company D/B/A Easy Wireless for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier on a Wireless Basis (Low Income Only)* (Ky. PSC Nov. 29, 2011).

² Case No. 2011-00137, Nov. 29, 2011 final Order at 10.

³ Application at 3.

designated service area to be statewide, subject to the wireless network coverage area of T-Mobile, including rural areas. Easy Wireless does not seek high-cost support.⁴

Easy Wireless attests in its application that it continues to meet all the federal requirements for Lifeline ETCs, including those that have been promulgated since receiving its ETC designation.⁵

Easy Wireless files this application to expand its ETC service area pursuant to 47 USC § 214(e)(2), which provides in part that:

A State commission shall upon its own motion or upon request designate a common carrier . . . as an eligible telecommunications carrier for a service area designated by the State commission. Upon request and consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity, the State commission may, in the case of an area served by a rural telephone company, and shall, in the case of all other areas, designate more than one common carrier as an eligible telecommunications carrier for a service area designated by the State commission, so long as each additional requesting carrier meets the requirements of paragraph (1). Before designating an additional eligible telecommunications carrier for an area served by a rural telephone company, the State commission shall find that the designation is in the public interest.

The Commission, prior to designating an ETC pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(6), must determine whether such designation is in the public interest, the same consideration is given for expanding the service area of an ETC. In determining the public interest, the Commission historically has considered the benefits of increased consumer choice and the unique advantages and disadvantages of the petitioner's service offering.⁶

⁴ Application at 2.

⁵ Application at 4-6.

⁶ See, e.g., Case No. 2012-00473, *Application of Q Link Wireless LLC for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the Commonwealth of Kentucky* (Ky. PSC Mar. 3, 2013).

Easy Wireless has provided the Commission with the information required for amending its service area in which it is designated as an ETC, specifically to provide service statewide, which will necessarily entail that it will provide service in the territories of some rural carriers. Such expanded coverage will increase consumer choice and increase competitive pressure on existing ETCs. Accordingly, the Commission finds the public interest supports such expansion of Easy Wireless's service area, subject to Easy Wireless's continued compliance with the representations and commitments made in its application and the Federal Communication Commission's rules.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. Easy Wireless's designation as a Lifeline ETC is amended to permit Easy Wireless to offer Lifeline service statewide subject to its underlying wireless carrier's coverage.
2. The case is closed and removed from the Commission's docket.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Chairman


Vice Chairman


Commissioner

ENTERED
FEB 07 2024 bsb
KENTUCKY PUBLIC
SERVICE COMMISSION

ATTEST:


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