

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION OF CONEXON	)	
CONNECT, LLC FOR AN EXPANSION OF ITS	)	
DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE	)	CASE NO.
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER FOR THE	)	2024-00008
LIMITED PURPOSE OF OFFERING FEDERAL	)	
LIFELINE BENEFITS AND PARTICIPATING IN	)	
THE KENTUCKY USF PROGRAM	)	

ORDER

On January 19, 2024, Conexon Connect, LLC (Conexon Connect), a common carrier, filed an application seeking to expand its eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) service area for the purpose of providing Lifeline-only service. Conexon Connect, a Competitive Local Exchange Carrier, was granted ETC designation by the Commission in Case No. 2020-00420 for the purpose of receiving federal Lifeline support.<sup>1</sup> The Commission previously granted Conexon Connect ETC designation for the purpose of receiving Federal High-Cost and Low-Income (Lifeline) support from the Universal Service Fund (USF) in the Kentucky census blocks listed in its application.<sup>2</sup> Conexon Connect seeks to expand its ETC designated service area to include additional census blocks.<sup>3</sup> Conexon Connect also seeks to participate in the Kentucky USF in order to

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<sup>1</sup> Case No. 2020-00420, *Electronic Application of Conexon Connect LLC for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier* (Ky. PSC Mar. 31, 2021).

<sup>2</sup> Case No. 2020-00420, *Electronic Application of Conexon Connect LLC for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier* (filed Jan. 5, 2021), Application, Exhibit A.

<sup>3</sup> Application, Exhibit A.

provide supplemental state Lifeline discounts to eligible customers in the proposed designation area, as identified in Exhibits A and C.<sup>4</sup>

Conexon Connect is a wholly owned direct subsidiary of Conexon, LLC (Conexon).<sup>5</sup> Conexon Connect seeks to expand its designated service statewide subject to the wireless network coverage of its underlying carrier. Conexon Connect attests in its application that it continues to meet all the federal requirements for Lifeline-only ETCs, including those that have been promulgated since receiving its ETC designation.<sup>6</sup>

In part, 47 USC § 214(e)(2) provides 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 and the same consideration is given for expanding the service area of an ETC. In determining the public

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<sup>4</sup> Application at 3.

<sup>5</sup> Application at 2.

<sup>6</sup> Application at 4-8.

interest, the Commission has historically considered the benefits of increased consumer choice and the unique advantages and disadvantages of the petitioner's service offering.<sup>7</sup>

Conexon Connect has provided the Commission with the information required for amending its service area in which it is designated as an ETC. Conexon Connect will expand its service area to provide service in the additional census blocks listed in its application,<sup>8</sup> and provide service in the territories of some rural carriers. Such expanded coverage will increase consumer choice and increase competitive pressure on existing ETC. Accordingly, the Commission finds that the public interest supports such expansion of Conexon Connect's service area, subject to Conexon Connect'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. Conexon Connect designation as a Lifeline ETC is amended to permit Conexon Connect to offer Lifeline-only service as stated in the application at Exhibit A and to participate in the Kentucky USF.
2. The case is closed and removed from the Commission's docket.

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<sup>7</sup> See 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).

<sup>8</sup> Application, Exhibit A.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Vice Chairman

  
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Commissioner



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