

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION WEST KENTUCKY	)	
TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE CORPORATION,	)	CASE NO.
INC. FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE	)	2024-00389
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER FOR	)	
LIFELINE SUPPORT	)	

ORDER

On December 10, 2024, West Kentucky Rural Telephone Cooperative Corporation, Inc. (West Kentucky Telephone), an Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC), filed an application seeking to expand its eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) service area for the purpose of providing Lifeline-only service. The Commission previously granted West Kentucky Telephone ETC designation for the purpose of receiving Federal High-Cost and Low-Income support from the Federal Universal Service Fund (USF) in specific census blocks within West Kentucky Telephone's Competitive Local Exchange Carrier (CLEC) territory, and for the additional purpose of receiving Low-Income support from the federal and state USF in designated areas in Kentucky.<sup>1</sup>

On April 21, 2025, West Kentucky Telephone filed a motion for leave to amend the application and substitute Exhibit B with an amended Exhibit B.<sup>2</sup> West Kentucky Telephone stated that Exhibit B of the application incorrectly depicted a service area in Tennessee and that a corrected map of the additional service area in which West

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<sup>1</sup> Case No. 2021-00024, *Electronic Application of West Kentucky Rural Telephone Cooperative Corporation, Inc. Eligible Telecommunications Certification* (Ky. PSC Apr. 9, 2021).

<sup>2</sup> Motion for Leave to Amend the Application, (filed Apr. 21, 2025).

Kentucky Telephone seeks ETC designation is included in amended Exhibit B.<sup>3</sup> West Kentucky Telephone explained the incorrect map was due to a clerical error and should not prejudice the application.<sup>4</sup> West Kentucky Telephone sought to expand its Lifeline ETC designated service area to include additional areas within West Kentucky Telephone's CLEC service area in Kentucky.<sup>5</sup>

West Kentucky Telephone is managed and operated by West Kentucky Telephone, the ILEC, a non-profit, member-owned telephone cooperative.<sup>6</sup> West Kentucky Telephone is authorized to transact business in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the State of Tennessee.<sup>7</sup> West Kentucky Telephone is operating in Kentucky as a CLEC and an ILEC that serves residential and business members in Cunningham, Fairdealing, Fancy Farm, Farmington, Folsomdale, Hardin, Hazel, Kirksey, Lowes, Lynn Grove, Lynnville, New Concord, Sedalia, West Plains, and Wingo exchanges in Kentucky, as well as parts of several counties in western Kentucky, and Cottage Grove, Cypress, Puryear, and South Hazel exchanges in Tennessee.<sup>8</sup> West Kentucky Telephone attested 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>9</sup>

47 USC § 214(e)(2) provides in part that:

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

<sup>4</sup> Motion at 2.

<sup>5</sup> Motion, Amended Exhibit B.

<sup>6</sup> Application at 2.

<sup>7</sup> Application at 2.

<sup>8</sup> Application at 2-3.

<sup>9</sup> Application at 6-7.

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 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>10</sup>

Upon review of West Kentucky Telephone's application and motion, the Commission finds that West Kentucky Telephone has provided sufficient information required for amending its service area in which it is designated as an ETC. West Kentucky Telephone seeks to expand its service area to provide service in the areas listed in its motion,<sup>11</sup> including to provide service in the territories of some rural carriers. Such expanded coverage will increase consumer choice and increase competition in areas with existing ETCs. Accordingly, the Commission finds that the public interest supports such

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<sup>10</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).

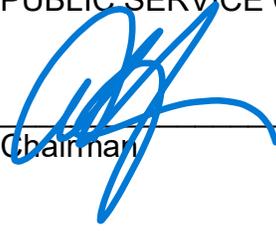
<sup>11</sup> Motion, Amended Exhibit B.

expansion of West Kentucky Telephone's service area, subject to West Kentucky Telephone's continued compliance with the representations and commitments made in its application and the Federal Communication Commission's rules. Thus, the request should be granted. Finally, the Commission finds that West Kentucky Telephone should be an ETC that is eligible to receive Kentucky Universal Service Fund support for Lifeline service.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. West Kentucky Telephone's request to amend its application to correct Exhibit B is granted.
2. West Kentucky Telephone designation as a Lifeline ETC is amended to expand the territory West Kentucky Telephone may offer low-income Lifeline-only service as set forth in the amended application, amended Exhibit B.
3. West Kentucky Telephone request to be an ETC eligible to receive Kentucky Universal Service Fund support for low-income Lifeline service is granted.
4. The case is closed and removed from the Commission's docket.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

  
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Vice Chairman

  
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Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
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Executive Director



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