

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION OF GLOBAL)	
CONNECTION, INC. OF AMERICA FOR)	
AUTHORITY TO DISCONTINUE ITS REGULATED)	CASE NO.
WIRELINE SERVICES IN KENTUCKY AND TO)	2019-00405
RELINQUISH ITS WIRELINE ELIGIBLE)	
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER)	
DESIGNATION)	

ORDER

On January 6, 2017, the Commission granted the request of Global Connection, Inc. of America (Global Connection) for designation as a wireline Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC).¹ Global Connection was authorized to receive federal and state Low-Income support for the purpose of providing Lifeline. On November 19, 2019, Global Connection petitioned the Commission pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4) for relinquishment of its ETC status in Kentucky effective February 19, 2020, or upon receipt of written notification from Global that such services have been discontinued, whichever is later.

Global Connection is a competitive local exchange carrier providing service to customers throughout the operating territories of the incumbent carriers BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC, d/b/a AT&T Kentucky, Windstream Kentucky East, LLC, and

¹ Case No. 2016-00363, *In the Matter of Global Connection Inc. of America Petition for Designation as a Wireline Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of Kentucky*, (Ky. PSC Jan. 6, 2017).

Windstream Kentucky West, LLC. Global Connection is currently serving 22 Lifeline customers in Kentucky.²

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 the relinquishment of Global Connection's ETC designation, there will continue to be several ETCs in the study area that provide Lifeline. Because other ETCs currently serve the entire area in which Global Connection is designated an ETC in Kentucky, notice will not need to be provided to those carriers to permit them to purchase or construct facilities to ensure that Global Connection's customers will continue to receive service.

Global Connection has proposed to provide written notice by U.S. mail to each of its then-current Lifeline customers in Kentucky advising that they will no longer provide service. The notices will inform these customers that the monthly Lifeline credit will be discontinued 60 days from the date of the notice. The notices will further inform each customer that Lifeline discounted service may be obtained from one of the remaining ETCs in the area. Global Connection is not activating any new Lifeline subscribers in Kentucky as of the date of its application.³

47 USC § 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

² Application at 4–5.

³ *Id.* at 6.

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 USC 47 214(e)(4) above, there is more than one ETC in the relinquishment area and those carriers have sufficient facilities for the provision of service. The Commission also finds that Global Connection has proposed to provide sufficient notice to its customers to enable those customers to seek alternative service providers.

Having been sufficiently advised, the Commission HEREBY ORDERS that Global Connection's request to withdraw as an ETC is granted effective February 19, 2020, or upon written notification from Global Connection that such services have been discontinued to its customers, whichever is later. This case is now closed and removed from the Commission's docket.

By the Commission

ENTERED
DEC 18 2019
KENTUCKY PUBLIC
SERVICE COMMISSION

ATTEST:


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