

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION OF NORTH	)	
CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS, INC. FOR	)	CASE NO.
AMENDMENT OF ITS ELIGIBLE	)	2021-00009
TELECOMMUNICATIONS DESIGNATION	)	

ORDER

North Central Communications is a facilities-based competitive local exchange carrier (CLEC) and a wholly owned subsidiary of North Central Telephone Cooperative Corporation, Inc. On October 8, 2003, North Central Communications petitioned the Commission for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e) and 47 C.F.R. § 54.201–207 in all exchanges in the service territory of Windstream Kentucky East, LLC.<sup>1</sup> The Commission granted the request on January 27, 2004.<sup>2</sup> North Central Communications requests that its ETC designation be amended to include those areas where North Central Communications has been allocated Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) Phase I support as a winner in the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) RDOF Phase I auction (Auction 904).<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Case No. 2003-00397, *Petition of North Central Communications, Incorporated for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 214(e)*.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> Application at 1.

North Central Communications was awarded \$2,125,953.10 to serve 261 census blocks in Kentucky in the FCC's Auction 904.<sup>4</sup> The vast majority of the RDOF areas are in the exchanges already designated as ETC eligible in the 2004 ETC Designation. North Central Communication is requesting that the census blocks outside its existing ETC designation also be awarded ETC status.<sup>5</sup> North Central Communications has been operating as a CLEC via its own facilities since 2002 and continues to meet the obligations required by ETC Designation. FCC rules require winning bidders to receive ETC-designation in the RDOF areas no later than 180 days after the public notice identifying the winning bidders.<sup>6</sup>

North Central Communications has provided an affidavit certifying it will use federal universal support "only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and service for which the support is necessary" consistent with Section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.<sup>7</sup>

North Central Communications has provided sufficient evidence for this Commission to grant ETC status in the requested areas of the state of Kentucky. This designation will benefit consumers in Kentucky by expanding the range of competitive choices, promoting the deployment of broadband, and by providing an incentive for incumbent telephone companies to improve their existing networks. Therefore, the

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<sup>4</sup> Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase 1 Auction (Auction 904) Closes, Winning Bidders Announced, FCC Form 683 Due January 29, 2021, Public Notice, 35 FCC Rcd 13888, Att. A (2020) (Closing Public Notice).

<sup>5</sup> Application, Attachment A.

<sup>6</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 54.804(b)(5).

<sup>7</sup> Application, Attachment B.

Commission finds it is in the public interest to designate North Central Communications as an ETC in additional areas of the state.

Having reviewed the evidence of record and being otherwise sufficiently advised, the Commission HEREBY ORDERS that:

1. North Central Communications is designated as an ETC in the census blocks listed in Attachment A to the application.

2. North Central Communications has certified to the Commission that it will comply with the FCC's criteria, in accordance with 47 U.S.C. § 254(e), and is therefore eligible to receive Universal Service Fund support for the current certification period.

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

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



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