

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION OF PEOPLES)	
TELECOM, LLC FOR AMENDMENT OF ITS)	CASE NO.
ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS)	2021-00010
DESIGNATION)	

ORDER

Peoples Telecom, LLC (Peoples Telecom) is a facilities based competitive local exchange carrier (CLEC) and a wholly owned subsidiary of Peoples Rural Telephone Coop. Corp., Inc. On February 3, 2017, Peoples Telecom 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 the exchanges of Beattyville, Berea, East Bernstadt, Irvine, Livingston, London, Manchester, Mt. Vernon, and Oneida.¹ The Commission granted the request on June 9, 2017.² Peoples Telecom now requests, in an application filed on January 8, 2021, that its ETC designation be amended to include those areas where Peoples Telecom 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).³

¹ Case No. 2017-00061, *Petition of Peoples Telecom, LLC for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the Commonwealth of Kentucky* (Ky. PSC June 9, 2017).

² *Id.*

³ Application at 1.

Peoples Telecom was awarded \$5,668,121 to serve 30 census blocks in Kentucky in the FCC's Auction 904.⁴ The vast majority of the RDOF areas are in the exchanges already designated as ETC eligible in the 2003 ETC Designation. Peoples Telecom is requesting that the census blocks outside its existing ETC designation are also awarded ETC status.⁵ Peoples Telecom has been operating as a CLEC via its own facilities since 2015 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.⁶

Peoples Telecom 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 1996.⁷

Peoples Telecom 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, expanding the availability of high speed internet access, and by providing an incentive for incumbent telephone companies to improve their existing networks. Therefore, the Commission finds it is in the public interest to designate Peoples Telecom as an ETC in additional areas of the state.

⁴ 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).

⁵ Application, Attachment A.

⁶ 47 C.F.R. § 54.804(b)(5).

⁷ Application, Attachment B.

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

1. Peoples Telecom is designated as an ETC in the census blocks in Attachment A to the application.

2. Peoples Telecom 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.

By the Commission



ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda C. Bidwell". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Executive Director

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