

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION OF CEBRIDGE)	
TELECOM KY, LLC D/B/A SUDDENLINK)	CASE NO.
COMMUNICATIONS FOR AUTHORITY TO)	2024-00162
RELINQUISH ITS ELIGIBLE)	
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER DESIGNATION)	

ORDER

On May 16, 2024, Cebridge Telecom KY, LLC d/b/a Suddenlink Communications (Cebridge Telecom), filed an application with the Commission to relinquish Cebridge Telecom’s designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) for the purposes of providing Lifeline. Cebridge Telecom requests an Order from the Commission no later than August 10, 2024.¹

On March 31, 2021, the Commission awarded Cebridge Telecom ETC status in Case No. 2020-00421² for the purpose of receiving Federal High-Cost and Low-Income support from the Federal Universal Service Fund in the 12 census blocks awarded in Phase I of the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) Auction. On April 19, 2024, Cebridge Telecom notified the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that the company intended to surrender its awarded RDOF support for the 12 census blocks in Kentucky to ensure that these unserved areas will be eligible to receive federal and state

¹ Application (filed May 16, 2024) at 1.

² Case No. 2020-00421, *Electronic Application of Cebridge Telecom, KY, LLC d/b/a Suddenlink Communications for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier* (Ky. PSC Mar. 31, 2021).

funding for programs that support gigabit speed service.³ On April 24, 2024, the FCC confirmed receipt of the notification and agreed to remove Cebridge Telecom from the FCC's Broadband Funding Map.⁴ The FCC issued a public notice on May 10, 2024, announcing the withdrawal of Cebridge Telecom from the RDOF support program and that the 12 census blocks awarded to Cebridge Telecom were now eligible for other funding programs.⁵

Cebridge Telecom states in its application that it currently has no customers in Kentucky and that the 12 census blocks being relinquished are each served by several other ETCs.⁶

The relevant statute is 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4), which provides, in pertinent part, that:

A 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 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

³ Application, Exhibit C.

⁴ Application, Exhibit D.

⁵ Application, Exhibit E.

⁶ Application at 4.

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.

DISCUSSION

It appears that Cebridge Telecom has met the statutory minimums so that the Commission must grant the relinquishment. First, there are at least eight wireless ETCs in Cebridge Telecom's coverage area, and at least one incumbent local exchange carrier, offering Lifeline service.⁷ Second, Cebridge Telecom provided three months' advance notice.⁸ Finally, Cebridge Telecom has no Lifeline customers in Kentucky.⁹ The current ETCs, because they all adhere to the same FCC requirements and provide service in Cebridge Telecom's areas, will be able to meet the service needs of potential customers.

CONCLUSIONS AND FINDINGS

Based on the evidence and having been sufficiently advised, the Commission finds that, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4) Cebridge Telecom has: (1) made timely application to the Commission to relinquish Cebridge Telecom's ETC authority; (2) provided sufficient advance notice of its relinquishment; (3) that more than one ETCs provide services in Cebridge Telecom's service territory and (4) those carriers have sufficient facilities for the provision of continued service; and Cebridge Telecom has no current customers in Kentucky. The Commission, therefore, pursuant to

⁷ Application, Exhibit B.

⁸ Application at 3.

⁹ Application, Exhibit B.

47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4), finds that Cebridge Telecom shall be permitted to relinquish its designation as an ETC.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. Cebridge Telecom's request to relinquish its designation as an ETC is granted.
2. A copy of this Order shall be served on the Federal Communications Commission and the Universal Service Administration Company.
3. This case is closed and removed from the Commission's docket.

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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



Chairman

Vice Chairman

Mary Pat Regan

Commissioner

*By A H
with permission*

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AUG 09 2024
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KENTUCKY PUBLIC
SERVICE COMMISSION

ATTEST:



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