

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION OF GLOBAL)	
CONNECTION INC. OF AMERICA D/B/A STAND)	CASE NO.
UP WIRELESS FOR EXPANSION OF ITS ETC)	2024-00218
CARRIER SERVICE AREA)	

ORDER

On July 3, 2024, Global Connection Inc. of America, d/b/a Stand Up Wireless (Stand Up Wireless), filed an application seeking to expand its eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) service area for the purpose of providing Lifeline service to all eligible low-income households in its service area. Stand Up Wireless is a reseller of Commercial Mobile Radio Service, also known as Mobile Virtual Network Operator. Stand Up Wireless was granted ETC designation by the Commission in Case No. 2013-00051 for the purpose of receiving federal Lifeline support.¹ The Commission granted Stand Up Wireless limited ETC designation in Kentucky subject to the non-rural and rural coverage area of its underlying carrier, Sprint PCS (Sprint) and Verizon Wireless (Verizon).² Since that time, Sprint and T-Mobile US, Inc. (T-Mobile) have merged and now operate as T-Mobile.³ Stand Up Wireless continues to use the T-Mobile network as

¹ Case No. 2013-00051, *Application of Global Connection Inc. of America dba Stand Up Wireless for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the Commonwealth of Kentucky*, (Ky. PSC Aug. 7, 2013).

² Case No. 2013-00051, Aug. 7, 2013 final Order at 7.

³ Application (filed July 3, 2024) at 3.

its underlying carrier but no longer provides service using the Verizon network.⁴ Stand Up Wireless seeks to expand its ETC designated service area to be statewide, subject to the wireless network coverage area of T-Mobile, including rural areas. Stand Up Wireless does not seek high-cost support.⁵

Stand Up Wireless attests in its application that it continues to meet all the federal requirements for Lifeline ETCs, including those that have been promulgated since receiving its ETC designation.⁶

Stand Up Wireless filed this application to expand its ETC service area pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(2), which provides in part that:

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 or expanding the service area of an ETC pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(6), must determine whether such designation is in the public interest. In determining the public interest, the Commission has historically

⁴ Application at 3.

⁵ Application at 1.

⁶ Application at 3–5.

considered the benefits of increased consumer choice and the unique advantages and disadvantages of the petitioner's service offering.⁷

Stand Up Wireless has provided the Commission with the information required for amending its service area in which it is designated as an ETC, specifically to provide service statewide, which will necessarily entail that it will provide service in the territories of some rural carriers. Such expanded coverage will increase consumer choice and increase competitive pressure on existing ETCs. Accordingly, the Commission finds the public interest supports the expansion of Stand Up Wireless's service area, subject to Stand Up Wireless's continued compliance with the representations and commitments made in its application and the Federal Communication Commission's rules.

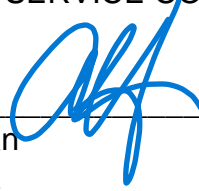
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. Stand Up Wireless's designation as a Lifeline ETC is amended to permit Stand Up Wireless to offer Lifeline service statewide subject to its underlying wireless carrier's coverage.
2. This case is closed and removed from the Commission's docket.

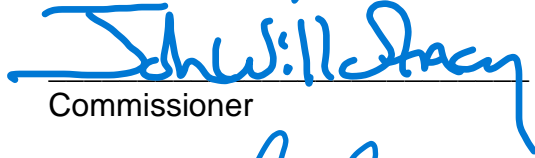
⁷ See, e.g., Case No. 2012-00473, *Application of Q Link Wireless LLC for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the Commonwealth of Kentucky* (Ky. PSC Mar. 3, 2013).

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Chairman



Commissioner



Commissioner



ENTERED

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KENTUCKY PUBLIC
SERVICE COMMISSION

ATTEST:



Executive Director

Case No. 2024-00218

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