

**STATE OF MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service Commission held by telephone and internet audio conference on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2021.

In the Matter of Northeast Missouri Rural	)	
Telephone Company d/b/a NEMR Telecom's	)	
Application for Expansion of its Designation as	)	<b><u>File No. IA-2021-0221</u></b>
an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier for	)	
Purposes of Receiving Rural Digital	)	
Opportunity Fund and Motions for Expedited	)	
Treatment and Waiver	)	

**ORDER GRANTING EXPANDED DESIGNATION AS  
AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER**

Issue Date: February 24, 2021

Effective Date: March 6, 2021

On January 13, 2021, Northeast Rural Telephone Company d/b/a NEMR Telecom (NEMR Telecom) requested authority to expand its existing Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) designation.<sup>1</sup> NEMR Telecom was recently awarded federal Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) support to build broadband facilities in more rural areas. The RDOF funding requires NEMR Telecom to extend broadband service to a designated number of locations in certain census blocks. NEMR Telecom seeks to expand its ETC designation to include the census blocks it was awarded. NEMR Telecom included Exhibit 2 with its application, which outlines the specific census blocks for which it requests designation.

NEMR Telecom asks for expedited treatment of its application. NEMR Telecom states that if the Commission does not approve its application by March 1, 2021, then it

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<sup>1</sup> NEMR Telecom is presently registered as an Incumbent Local Exchange Company (ILEC).

may adversely impact Applicant's ability to timely provide RDOF support and begin providing voice and broadband services to the customers located in the census blocks listed in Exhibit 2.

The Commission issued notice and set a deadline for intervention. No person or entity sought intervention in this matter, and no party has requested a hearing.

The Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) conducted an investigation and on February 4, 2021, filed its recommendation and memorandum. Staff recommended that the Commission approve NEMR Telecom's request for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier for the purpose of receiving federal high-cost and low-income support for census blocks identified in the applicant's Exhibit 2. Staff stated NEMR Telecom met the requirements of Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-31.016 governing eligible telecommunications carriers. Staff notes that NEMR Telecom requests a waiver of the 60-day notice requirement of Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017, and recommends that such waiver be granted.

Under federal authority, the application is within the Commission's jurisdiction to decide.<sup>2</sup> Since no law requires a hearing, this is a non-contested case.<sup>3</sup> Non-contested cases do not require formal proceedings or hearings before the Commission, and as such, there is no evidentiary record.<sup>4</sup> Consequently, the Commission bases its decision on the verified filings.

Based upon its review of the verified application and Staff's recommendation and memorandum, the Commission finds that NEMR Telecom has met the requirements for

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<sup>2</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(2).

<sup>3</sup> *In the Matter of Kansas City Power & Light Co.'s Request for Authority to Implement a General Rate Increase for Elec. Serv. v. Pub. Serv. Comm'n*, 509 S.W.3d 757, 783-784 (Mo. App. W.D. 2016).

<sup>4</sup> *State ex rel. Pub. Counsel v. Pub. Serv. Comm'n*, 210 S.W.3d 344, 353-354 (Mo. App. W.D. 2006).

ETC designation. Further, for good cause shown, NEMR Telecom will be granted a waiver of the 60-day filing requirement of the Commission's rules. Finally, due to NEMR Telecom's unopposed request for expedited treatment, the Commission finds good cause to make its order effective in ten days.

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:**

1. The motion for expedited treatment is granted.
2. NEMR Telecom's application is granted. NEMR Telecom is granted ETC designation in all census block groups described in Exhibit 2 to its application.
3. NEMR Telecom is granted a waiver of the 60-day notice requirement of Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017.
4. This order shall become effective on March 6, 2021.
5. This file shall be closed on March 7, 2021.



**BY THE COMMISSION**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morris L. Woodruff".

Morris L. Woodruff  
Secretary

Silvey, Chm., Kenney, Rupp, Coleman, and  
Holsman CC., concur.

Pridgin, Regulatory Law Judge