BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone Company d/b/a NEMR Telecom's Application for Expansion of its Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier for Purposes of Receiving Rural Digital Opportunity Fund and Motions for Expedited Treatment and Waiver

File No. IA-2021-0221

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission and submits its Recommendation as follows:

1. On February 24, 2021, the Commission granted Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone Company d/b/a NEMR Telecom ("NEMR") application for expanded designation as a wireless Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC"). On February 22, 2022, NEMR filed a motion requesting the Commission issue a revised order granting expanded designation as an ETC.

2. The Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") contacted NEMR to advise that the Census Block Groups which the Commission designated in the February 24, 2021 Order did not match the Census Block Groups which NEMR was awarded federal Rural Digital Opportunity Fund ("RDOF") support. After review of NEMR's motion, Staff recommends that the Commission rescind its grant of the Census Block Groups in NEMR's January 13, 2021 *Application* and grant NEMR expanded designation as an ETC in the Census Block Groups described in the Revised Exhibit 2 in NEMR's motion.

WHEREFORE, Staff recommends the Commission grant NEMR motion to rescind the Census Block Groups in its January 13, 2021 *Application*, grant NEMR expanded designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the Census Block Groups described in the Revised Exhibit 2 of its motion, and grant such other and further relief as the Commission finds appropriate in the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

<u>/s/ Ron Irving</u>

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by electronic mail, or First Class United States Postal Mail, postage prepaid, on this 1st day of March, 2022, to all counsel of record.

<u>/s/Ron Irving</u>