



BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morris L. Woodruff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

Ross Keeling, Regulatory Law Judge,
by delegation of authority pursuant
to Section 386.240, RSMo 2016.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 12th day of April, 2022.

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Application of Steelville Telephone Exchange,)
Inc., d/b/a STE Communications for Designation)
as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier For) Case No. _____
Purposes of Receiving Federal and State Lifeline)
and Disabled Support)

APPLICATION OF STEELVILLE TELEPHONE EXCHANGE, INC.
D/B/A STE COMMUNICATIONS FOR DESIGNATION AS AN
ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER FOR PURPOSES OF
RECEIVING FEDERAL AND STATE LIFELINE AND DISABLED SUPPORT
AND MOTION FOR WAIVER

COMES NOW Steelville Telephone Exchange, Inc., d/b/a STE Communications (“STE Communications” or “Applicant”) pursuant to Section 214(e)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (“Act”); 47 CFR Sections 54.201 and 54.202; 20 CSR 4240-2.060; and 20 CSR 4240-31.016, and for its Application for designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”) for purposes of receiving federal and state Lifeline and Disabled Support and motion for waiver pursuant to 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1)(D), states to the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Commission”) as follows:

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

1. Applicant is a Missouri corporation in good standing with its street address and principal place of business at 61 East Highway 8, Box 370, Steelville, MO 65565. A copy of Applicant’s Certificate of Good Standing issued by the Missouri Secretary of State is attached as Exhibit 1. Applicant is an Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (“ILEC”) certificated by the Commission to provide basic local and non-switched local telecommunications services.¹ Applicant is registered as an IVoIP provider to provide IVoIP services statewide.²

¹ File No. TA-88-38.

² File No. DA-2022-0242.

2. Applicant has been designated by the Commission as an ETC for purposes of receiving Federal Universal Service Fund (“USF”) in its certificated Missouri service area.³

3. By this Application, Applicant seeks ETC designation throughout the State of Missouri in order to provide federal and state Lifeline and Disabled discounts to qualifying low-income and disabled subscribers. Applicant therefore seeks a “Lifeline and Disabled ETC designation” only.

4. All correspondence, communications, pleadings, notices, orders and decisions relating to this Application should be addressed to:

Kevin Ancell
61 East Highway 8
Box 370
Steelville, MO 65565
(573) 775-2111
Kevin.Ancell@goste.net

W.R. England, III/Brian T. McCartney
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P.O. Box 456
312 East Capital Avenue
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0456
trip@brydonlaw.com
bmccartney@brydonlaw.com

5. STE Communications currently provides local telecommunications and broadband internet access services in the exchanges of Steelville, Huzzah, Cherryville, and Viburnum, Missouri.

6. As will be shown below, Applicant meets all statutory and regulatory requirements for its expanded ETC designation. A grant of this application will advance the public interest by meeting the goals of the federal and state Lifeline and state Disabled programs making voice and broadband services affordable to subscribers who are financially challenged and/or disabled.

7. Applicant has no pending action or final unsatisfied judgments or decisions against it from any state or federal agency or court which involve customer service or rates,

³ *Order Approving Stipulation and Designation of Eligible Telecommunications Carrier* (issued December 4, 1997), Case No. TO-98-49.

which has occurred within the past three (3) years. Nor does Applicant have any Missouri annual reports or assessment fees that are overdue.

8. Applicant is not delinquent in the filing of any annual report or the payment of any assessment fees.

SERVICES OFFERED

9. Applicant will offer voice and broadband internet access services. Qualifying subscribers will be eligible for federal and state Lifeline and Disabled support. The rates Applicant proposes to charge for voice and broadband services will be reasonably comparable to urban rates for the same services.

ADVERTISING SERVICES

10. Applicant will continue to advertise the availability and prices of its voice and broadband services using media of general distribution. Applicant plans to advertise its services and prices using newspapers, its publicly available website, direct mail, and through participation in local community events. In addition, Applicant will publicize the availability of its Lifeline and Disabled services in a manner reasonably designed to reach those likely to qualify for the services.

LIFELINE AND DISABLED SERVICE

11. Applicant will comply with all requirements associated with the federal Lifeline program contained in 47 CFR Part 54 Subpart E. Applicant will also comply with all requirements contained in 20 CSR 4240 Chapter 31 as they relate to the provision of Lifeline and Disabled services. Applicant's terms, conditions and rates for Lifeline and Disabled services will be contained on its publicly available website: www.goste.net.

ACCESS TO 911

12. Applicant will provide its voice subscribers with access to 911 and E911 emergency service.

ABILITY TO REMAIN FUNCTIONAL IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

13. Applicant will have the ability to remain functional in emergency situations through the use of back-up power (i.e., fixed and mobile generators and/or batteries) to ensure functionality without an external power source. The generators and batteries are regularly checked as part of routine maintenance.

CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PRIVACY AND SERVICE QUALITY

14. Applicant will satisfy all applicable consumer protection requirements, as well as protect consumer privacy. Applicant has Customer Proprietary Network Information (CPNI) policies and procedures that are consistent with FCC regulations. Employees are required to complete CPNI training. Applicant also has internal policies and procedures to protect sensitive customer information from improper use and disclosure. Applicant's privacy and security policies are reinforced through periodic training required of all employees.

FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ABILITY

15. Applicant has the financial and technical ability to provide voice and broadband services. Applicant complies with Commission rules, as well as files Annual Reports with the Commission regarding its financial status. Applicant's service as a ILEC and its annual reporting to the Commission further supports its technical and financial ability to provide voice and broadband services.

OWNERSHIP INTERESTS

16. Applicant is a Missouri telephone corporation, and no individual or entity owns more than one (1) share of the corporation.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

17. The Officers and Directors of Applicant are as follows:

Shirley Hendrix, President

Steve Yocom, Vice President

John Terry Beckham, Treasurer

Patricia Snodgrass, Secretary

Phyllis Conaway, Assistant Secretary

Virginia Mae Halbert

Joel Tom Beezley

Rosella Roberts

Kenneth Bruce Donal

COMMON OWNERSHIP OR MANAGEMENT

18. Applicant's subsidiary, Steelville Long Distance, Inc., has applied for and been granted ETC status to participate in the federal and state Lifeline and Disabled programs in Case No. CA-2022-0185.

REGISTERED NAME

19. Applicant commits to solely offer Lifeline and Disabled services using its fictitious name as registered with the Commission and the Missouri Secretary of State.

STATE OR FEDERAL REGULATORY OR LAW ENFORCEMENT MATTERS

20. No matters have been brought in the last ten (10) years by any state or federal regulatory or law enforcement agency against any of the individuals, entities, managers, officers, directors of other companies sharing common ownership or management with the Applicant involving fraud, deceit, perjury, stealing, or the omission or misstatement of material fact in connection with a commercial transaction.

WEBSITE/TARIFF

21. Information about the Applicant's service and rates will be contained in its website www.goste.net and its tariff.

AFFIRMATIVE STATEMENTS

22. In accordance with 20 CSR 4240-31.016(2)(B)6, Applicant makes the following affirmative statements:

- a. Applicant will comply with the federal and state Lifeline and Disabled requirements;
- b. In addition to seeking federal Lifeline support, Applicant intends to seek Lifeline and Disabled support from the Missouri Universal Service Fund (MoUSF);
- c. Applicant commits to maintain a current list of Company-designated contacts with the Commission's Electronic Filing Information System (EFIS) and will notify the Commission of any changes to its Company contact information;
- d. Applicant is compliant with all reporting and assessment obligations of this Commission; and
- e. Applicant is compliant with contribution obligations to the federal and state USF.

23. Applicant has not sought or obtained a waiver of any ETC requirement from the FCC.

A GRANT OF THE ETC DESIGNATION WILL
PROMOTE THE PUBLIC INTEREST

24. As demonstrated above, Applicant meets all of the statutory and regulatory requirements for designation as a Lifeline and Disabled ETC in the State of Missouri. Approval of the instant Application will advance the public's interest by fulfilling the goals of the federal and state Lifeline and Disabled support program by offering voice and broadband services to qualifying low-income and disabled customers. Being able to provide Lifeline and Disabled discounts to qualifying customers will promote greater access to high speed broadband and voice services.

APPLICANT'S FACILITIES USED TO OFFER SUPPORTED SERVICES

25. Applicant states that throughout the area(s) where it is designated as an ETC, it will offer the supported services using its own facilities (e.g., fiber optic cable) or a combination of its own facilities and resale of another carrier's services (including the services offered by another ETC).

MOTION FOR WAIVER

26. Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-4.4.017(1) provides that "(a)ny person that intends to file a case shall file a notice with the secretary of the commission a minimum of sixty (60) days prior to filing such case." A notice was not filed 60 days prior to the filing of this Application. As such, and to the extent required, Applicant seeks a waiver of the 60-day notice requirement.

27. Rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1)(D) provides that a waiver may be granted for good cause. In this regard, Applicant declares (as verified below) that it has had no communication

with the Office of the Commission (as defined by Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-4.015(10)) within the prior 150 days regarding any substantive issue likely to be in this case. Accordingly, for good cause shown, Applicant moves for a waiver of the 60-day notice requirement of Rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1) and acceptance of this Application at this time.

WHEREFORE, Applicant respectfully requests the Commission to issue an Order that: (1) approves its Application for designation as an ETC in order to participate in the federal and state Lifeline and Disabled support programs; (2) grants a waiver of the Commission notice of filing requirement in 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1); and (3) grants such other relief as is reasonable in the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

By: ***Brian McCartney*** _____

W.R. England, III Mo. #23975
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Attorneys for Steelville Telephone Exchange, Inc.,
d/b/a STE Communications

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of this document was served to the following parties on this 11th day of April, 2022:

General Counsel
Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
staffcounsel@psc.mo.gov

Office of the Public Counsel
P.O. Box 2230
Jefferson City, MO 65102
opcservice@opc.mo.gov

Brian McCartney


STATE OF MISSOURI

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City, Missouri, this 12th day of April, 2022.




Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

April 12, 2022

File/Case No. IA-2022-0278

**Missouri Public Service
Commission**

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Enclosed find a certified copy of an Order or Notice issued in the above-referenced matter(s).

Sincerely,



**Morris L. Woodruff
Secretary**

Distributed to all Local Exchange Carriers Certificated to Provide Service in Missouri

Recipients listed above with a valid e-mail address will receive electronic service. Recipients without a valid e-mail address will receive paper service.