

**STATE OF MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service  
Commission held at its office in  
Jefferson City on the 12th day  
of June, 2008.

In the Matter of the Application of YourTel America for     )  
Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier     ) **Case No. CO-2008-0334**

**ORDER GRANTING APPLICATION FOR MODIFICATION  
OF DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
CARRIER IN THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

Issue Date June 12, 2008

Effective Date: June 22, 2008

On April 11, 2008, YourTel America, Inc. ("YourTel"), applied to the Commission for modification of its designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier ("ETC") to include additional exchanges, for the purpose of receiving low-income federal universal service support.<sup>1</sup> The Commission granted YourTel ETC status in Case No. CO-2003-0094, when YourTel was known as The Pager Company d/b/a The Pager and Phone Company.

YourTel seeks to expand its ETC designation to include additional AT&T Missouri exchanges primarily in and near the St. Louis, Missouri metropolitan area.<sup>2</sup> None of these exchanges are served by a rural telephone company.

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<sup>1</sup> YourTel asks for reimbursement from the Low-Income Division of the USAC (Universal Services Administrative Company) only, and not from any high cost program of a state universal service fund from the High Cost Division of the USAC.

<sup>2</sup> Those exchanges, which are listed on Exhibit C of YourTel's application, are: St. Louis Metropolitan, Portage Des Sioux, St. Charles, Harvester, Chesterfield, Manchester, Valley Park, Fenton, Maxville, Imperial, Pond, Eureka, High Ridge, Antonia, Herculaneum-Pevely, Festus-Crystal City, De Soto, Hillsboro, Ware, Cedar Hill, Pacific, and Gray Summit.

Staff filed its Recommendation on May 21, 2008, requesting that the Commission grant YourTel the requested relief. In its Memorandum in support of the Recommendation, Staff states that YourTel qualifies as an ETC for the above-listed exchanges. No parties responded to Staff's pleading.

The federal Universal Service Fund was established in the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The stated purpose of the fund is to ensure that telephone customers in rural and high cost areas, as well as low-income customers, have access to quality telecommunications services at reasonable and affordable rates.<sup>3</sup> To meet that goal, the Universal Service Fund redistributes money paid into the fund by telecommunications customers to telecommunications service providers who serve rural and high cost parts of the country. Before a telecommunications service provider is eligible to receive funding from the Universal Service Fund, it must be designated as an Eligible Telecommunications Company, referred to by the acronym ETC.

The Telecommunications Act established two factual criteria for determining whether an applicant may be designated as an ETC. First, the applicant must offer the services that are supported by the Universal Service Fund throughout the service area for which the designation is received.<sup>4</sup> The applicant can offer those services either through its own facilities, or a combination of its own facilities and the resale of another carrier's services.

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<sup>3</sup> 47 U.S.C. 254(b).

<sup>4</sup> 47 CFR 54.101(a) (which requires ETCs to offer (1) Voice grade access to the public switched network; (2) Local usage; (3) Dual tone multi-frequency signaling or its functional equivalent; (4) Single-party service or its functional equivalent; (5) Access to emergency services; (6) Access to operator services; (7) Access to interexchange service; (8) Access to directory assistance; and (9) Toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers.

Second, the applicant must advertise the availability of such services and the charges therefore using media of general distribution.<sup>5</sup>

The Commission finds the allegations in the Application and its supplements, and Staff's Memorandum and Recommendation to be true. The Commission must grant YourTel eligible telecommunications carrier designation if it offers the services set out in Section 254 of the Act and if it advertises the availability of those services using media of general distribution.<sup>6</sup> The Commission finds that YourTel has met those requirements. Therefore, the Commission will designate YourTel as an eligible telecommunications carrier for the additional exchanges listed in YourTel's application.

**IT IS ORDERED THAT:**

1. YourTel America, Inc., is designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier under the provisions of 47 U.S.C. §§ 214 and 254 to receive low-income federal universal service fund support for the St. Louis Metropolitan, Portage Des Sioux, St. Charles, Harvester, Chesterfield, Manchester, Valley Park, Fenton, Maxville, Imperial, Pond, Eureka, High Ridge, Antonia, Herculaneum-Pevely, Festus-Crystal City, De Soto, Hillsboro, Ware, Cedar Hill, Pacific and Gray Summit exchanges.

2. YourTel America, Inc., shall advertise the availability of Lifeline service in the exchanges listed in paragraph 1 using media of general distribution, in compliance with 47 U.S.C § 214(e)(1).

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<sup>5</sup> 47 U.S.C. 214(e)(1).

<sup>6</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1), (2)

3. This order shall become effective on June 22, 2008.
4. This case shall be closed on June 23, 2008.

**BY THE COMMISSION**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colleen M. Dale', written over a horizontal line.

Colleen M. Dale  
Secretary

( S E A L )

Davis, Chm., Murray, Clayton,  
Jarrett, and Gunn, CC., concur.

Pridgin, Regulatory Law Judge