

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service Commission held at its office in Jefferson City on the 26th day of October, 2011.

In the Matter of the Application of Global)
Connection, Inc. of America d/b/a Stand Up)
Wireless for Designation as an Eligible)
Telecommunications Carrier on a Wireless)
Basis (Low Income Only))

File No. RA-2011-0299

**ORDER GRANTING APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION
AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER**

Issue Date: October 26, 2011

Effective Date: November 5, 2011

Syllabus: The Missouri Public Service Commission grants eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) status to Global Connection, Inc. of America d/b/a Stand Up Wireless for the purpose of receiving low-income customer support.

Background

On March 23, 2011, Global Connection, Inc. of America d/b/a Stand Up Wireless filed an application with the Commission seeking designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in order to receive federal universal service support for low income customers through Lifeline and LinkUp programs. Stand Up Wireless is a mobile wireless company whose operations are not regulated by the Missouri Public Service Commission. Through this application, the company intends to provide a free wireless handset, 100 minutes of monthly usage and 100 text messages with no monthly fees to qualifying customers throughout a number of service areas in Missouri.¹

¹ The service areas are listed in Attachment B to the application.

On March 24, the Commission issued notice of the application and set an intervention deadline of April 8. There were no requests to intervene. After a number of amendments to the company's application, the Staff of the Commission filed its recommendation on October 13. Staff recommends that the Commission approve the application.

Discussion

This matter is within this Commission's jurisdiction.² Because no party objects to the company's application, no evidentiary hearing is required.³ Rights to a hearing are therefore waived.⁴ Based on the verified filings, the Commission finds and concludes as follows.

Stand Up is a Georgia corporation authorized to do business in Missouri. Stand Up is a mobile wireless carrier whose operations are not regulated by the Commission.

The federal Universal Service Fund was established in the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The purpose of the fund is to ensure that people in rural and high cost areas, as well as low-income customers, have access to quality telecommunications services at reasonable rates.⁵ To meet that goal, the Universal Service Fund redistributes money paid into the fund by telecommunications customers to telecommunications 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.

² 47 U.S.C. §214(e)(2).

³ *State ex rel. Deffenderfer, Inc. v Public Service Com'n*, 776 S.W.2d 494 (Mo. App. 1989).

⁴ Section 536.060, RSMo 2000.

⁵ 47 U.S.C. §254(b).

The Commission finds the averments in the company's application, with all of the supplements amendments, and Staff's Memorandum and Recommendation to be true. The Commission must grant ETC status to Stand Up if the company offers the service set out in Section 254 of the Act and if it advertises the availability of those services using media of general distribution.⁶ The Commission finds that Stand Up has met those requirements and will therefore designate Stand Up as an eligible telecommunications carrier.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. Global Connection, Inc. of America d/b/a Stand Up Wireless is designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier, throughout the service areas listed in Attachment B to the application, to receive low-income federal universal service fund support.
2. This order shall become effective on November 5, 2011.
3. This file shall be closed on November 6, 2011.

BY THE COMMISSION



Steven C. Reed
Secretary

(S E A L)

Gunn, Chm., Davis, Jarrett,
and Kenney, CC., concur.

Jones, Senior Regulatory Law Judge

⁶ 47 U.S.C. §214(e)(1), (2).