

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of the Application of YourTel)
America, Inc., to Amend its Designation as an)
Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the) **File No. RA-2011-0376**
State of Missouri)

STAFF RESPONSE

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission and for its recommendation, states as follows:

1. On May 17, 2011, YourTel America, Inc. (“YourTel”) filed an application with the Missouri Public Service Commission seeking to expand its designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”) for the purpose of receiving federal universal service fund support for low income customers through Lifeline and LinkUp programs in certain new areas of the State of Missouri. YourTel was originally granted wireline ETC status in April 2003, and was granted wireless ETC status in March, 2009 for 35 exchanges, which it seeks in the present case to expand to statewide. During the time that YourTel has provided service as an ETC, the Staff has not received any information to indicate that the Company has not adhered to all of the requirements and regulations pertaining to that service. YourTel has been audited for compliance with the Commission’s USF regulations by the Staff.

2. On May 22, the City of Joplin, Missouri was directly hit by a large tornado, which caused severe damage to the city and its infrastructure. YourTel filed, on May 23, a request that its request to add the Joplin area to its ETC designation be expedited so that it could begin to distribute wireless handsets to eligible customers as soon as possible. In addition, it requested a temporary waiver of the requirement that customers provide documentary proof of eligibility, as many homes were destroyed utterly, and such proof would be difficult or impossible at this time.

3. The Staff has no objection to the expedited extension of YourTel's ETC status to encompass Joplin and such surrounding exchanges that have suffered damage in the May 22, 2011 tornado. The Staff also has no objection to the temporary waiver of proof of eligibility, as long as the Company views such necessary documentation with the first six months of providing service under the Lifeline and Linkup program subsidies.

WHEREFORE, the Staff requests that the Commission grant the Company the requested extension of its ETC service area to Joplin and temporarily waive compliance with 4 CSR 240-3.570(5)(B), subject to the requirement set forth above.

Respectfully submitted,



Colleen M. Dale
Senior Counsel
Missouri Bar No. 31624
Attorney for the Staff of the
Missouri Public Service Commission
P. O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-4255 (Telephone)
cully.dale@psc.mo.gov

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile or electronically mailed to all counsel of record this 23rd day of May, 2011.

