

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

In the Matter of USCOC of Greater Missouri, LLC d/b/a U.S. Cellular’s Notice of Partial ETC Relinquishment)
) **File No. RO-2021-0169**
)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) and for its *Recommendation* in this matter states as follows:

1. On December 16, 2020, USCOC of Greater Missouri, LLC, d/b/a U.S. Cellular (U.S. Cellular) filed a *Notice* with the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) seeking to relinquish a portion of its service area for which it is designated as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC). It was granted ETC status for the relevant territory on May 3, 2007, in Case No. TO-2005-0384.

2. Commission rule 20 CSR 240-31.015(4) governs the relinquishment of eligible telecommunications carrier status and requires that the carrier must provide a letter signed by an authorized company official or representative at least sixty (60) days prior to relinquishing ETC status in compliance with section 47 U.S.C. 214(e)(4).

3. U.S. Cellular explains in its letter that it has sold a portion of its Missouri territory for which it was granted ETC status; taking effect on November 13, 2019. Specifically, this is the Personal Communications Service or PCS portion of its St. Joseph Basic Trading Area or BTA territory in northwestern Missouri. It states that it has provided notice to customers well in advance of taking this action and has provided resources to customers to permit transitioning their services. U.S Cellular asks that the relinquishment take effect on January 14, 2021.

4. Staff has reviewed this *Notice* and in lieu of a memorandum files this pleading stating that Staff believes U.S. Cellular has met the requirements of 20 CSR 240-31.015(4) and is in compliance with 47 U.S.C. 214(e)(4), and should be granted partial relinquishment of its ETC designation.

WHEREFORE, Staff recommends that the Commission issue an order that grants USCOC of Greater Missouri, LLC d/b/a U.S. Cellular's, *Notice* of partial relinquishment of its territory for which it is designated an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier, for the purpose of receiving federal high-cost and low-income support; that the Order take effect on January 14, 2021; that the Order specify the relinquished area as outlined in U.S. Cellular's filing Attachment A; that the Order indicated the specific area for which U.S. Cellular will retain ETC status as reflected in the filing's Attachment B; and grant such other and further relief as is just in the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Whitney Payne

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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 22nd day of December, 2020, to all counsel of record.

/s/ Whitney Payne