

**STATE OF MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service Commission held by telephone and internet audio conference on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2021.

In the Matter of Application of Socket Telecom, )  
LLC for Designation as an Eligible ) **File No. TA-2021-0224**  
Telecommunications Carrier )

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

Issue Date: March 3, 2021

Effective Date: April 2, 2021

On January 15, 2021, Socket Telecom, LLC (Socket) requested authority to be designated as Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (ETC).<sup>1</sup> Socket was recently awarded federal Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) support to build broadband facilities in more rural areas. The RDOF funding requires Socket to extend broadband service to a designated number of locations in certain census blocks. Socket seeks ETC designation to include the census blocks it was awarded. Socket included Exhibit A with its application which outlines the specific census blocks for which it requests designation.

The Commission issued notice and set a deadline for intervention. No person or entity sought intervention in this matter, and no party has requested a hearing.

The Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) conducted an investigation and on February 16, 2021, filed its recommendation and memorandum. Staff recommended that the Commission approve Socket's request for designation as an eligible telecommunications carriers for the purpose of receiving federal high-cost and

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<sup>1</sup> Socket is presently registered as a competitive local exchange company (CLEC).

low-income support for census blocks identified in Exhibit A. Staff stated Socket met the requirements of Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-31.016 governing eligible telecommunications carriers. Staff notes that Socket requests a waiver of the 60-day notice requirement of Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017, and recommends that such waiver be granted.

Under federal authority, the application is within the Commission's jurisdiction to decide.<sup>2</sup> Since no law requires a hearing, this is a non-contested case.<sup>3</sup> Non-contested cases do not require formal proceedings or hearings before the Commission, and as such, there is no evidentiary record.<sup>4</sup> Consequently, the Commission bases its decision on the verified filings.

Based upon its review of the verified application and Staff's recommendation and memorandum, the Commission finds that Socket has met the requirements for ETC designation. Further, for good cause shown, Socket will be granted a waiver of the 60-day filing requirement of the Commission's rules.

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:**

1. Socket's application is granted. Socket is granted ETC designation in all census block groups described in Exhibit A to its application.
2. Socket is granted a waiver of the 60-day notice requirement of Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017.
3. This order shall become effective on April 2, 2021.
4. This file shall be closed on April 3, 2021.

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<sup>2</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(2).

<sup>3</sup> *In the Matter of Kansas City Power & Light Co.'s Request for Authority to Implement a General Rate Increase for Elec. Serv. v. Pub. Serv. Comm'n*, 509 S.W.3d 757, 783-784 (Mo. App. W.D. 2016).

<sup>4</sup> *State ex rel. Pub. Counsel v. Pub. Serv. Comm'n*, 210 S.W.3d 344, 353-354 (Mo. App. W.D. 2006).



**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

Silvey, Chm., Kenney, Rupp, Coleman, and  
Holsman CC., concur.

Pridgin, Regulatory Law Judge