

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

In the Matter of)
)
T-MOBILE CENTRAL LLC)
) File No. RA-2012-0195
Notice of Relinquishment of Its)
Eligible Telecommunications Carrier)
Designation Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §214(e)(4).)

T-MOBILE CENTRAL LLC'S NOTICE OF RELINQUISHMENT
OF ITS ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATION CARRIER DESIGNATION
PURSUANT TO 47 U.S.C. §214.(e)(4)

Dated: October 8, 2014

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PURSUANT TO 47 U.S.C. §214.(e)(4)**

Pursuant to 47 U.S. C. §214(e)(4), 47 C.F.R. § 54.205(a) and 4 C.S.R. 240-2.080(14), T-Mobile Central LLC (hereinafter, "T-Mobile" or the "Company") hereby submits this notice of relinquishment of its eligible telecommunications carrier (“ETC”) designation in the State of Missouri, effective as of December 31, 2014. As explained herein, this relinquishment of T-Mobile’s ETC designation meets all applicable requirements and should be expeditiously granted.

I. COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING THIS NOTICE

All pleading, correspondence and communications regarding this Notice should be addressed as follows:

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II. BACKGROUND

On July 27, 2012, the Commission designated T-Mobile as an ETC for purposes of receiving Lifeline universal service support in the wire centers listed in Exhibit A (“the ETC Service Area”).¹ The Universal Service Administrative Company (“USAC”) has assigned study area code (“SAC”) 429023 to T-Mobile to represent its ETC Service Area in Missouri. Subsequent to being designated an ETC in Missouri, T-Mobile has filed annually ETC Certification Reports with the Commission in compliance with 4 C.S.R. 240-31.130 and the Commission has certified T-Mobile to the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) each year to date.

III. T-MOBILE'S REQUEST FOR RELINQUISHMENT OF ITS ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER DESIGNATION

As an ETC eligible to receive Lifeline universal service support in Missouri, T-Mobile has utilized universal service support to make Lifeline discounted services available to eligible low-income consumers. T-Mobile now wishes to relinquish its ETC designation in Missouri, effective December 31, 2014. Though T-Mobile will no longer receive reimbursement for Lifeline discounts after the effective date of its relinquishment, it will continue to provide wireless service in Missouri as a non-ETC, meaning that existing and future subscribers can continue to receive wireless service from T-Mobile.

¹ *In the Matter of the Application of T-Mobile Central LLC For Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier For Purpose of Low Income Support*, Order, File No. RA-2012-0195, effective July 27, 2012 (hereinafter “the Designation Order”).

A. T-Mobile's Relinquishment of ETC Designation Complies With Federal Law

The Commission "shall permit an eligible telecommunications carrier to relinquish its designation as such a carrier in any area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier:"² 47 U.S.C. section 214(e)(4) states in relevant part:

(4) Relinquishment of universal service

A State commission (or the Commission in the case of a common carrier designated under paragraph (6)) shall permit an eligible telecommunications carrier to relinquish its designation as such a carrier in any area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier. An eligible telecommunications carrier that seeks to relinquish its eligible telecommunications carrier designation for an area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier shall give advance notice to the State commission (or the Commission in the case of a common carrier designated under paragraph (6)) of such relinquishment. Prior to permitting a telecommunications carrier designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier to cease providing universal service in an area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier, the State commission (or the Commission in the case of a common carrier designated under paragraph (6)) shall require the remaining eligible telecommunications carrier or carriers to ensure that all customers served by the relinquishing carrier will continue to be served, and shall require sufficient notice to permit the purchase or construction of adequate facilities by any remaining eligible telecommunications carrier. The State commission (or the Commission in the case of a common carrier designated under paragraph (6)) shall establish a time, not to exceed one year after the State commission (or the Commission in the case of a common carrier designated under paragraph (6)) approves such relinquishment under this paragraph, within which such purchase or construction shall be completed.

In summary, the statutory requirements for relinquishing ETC designation are:

(1) there must be more than one ETC serving in the area of the ETC seeking relinquishment; (2) the ETC seeking relinquishment must provide advance notice to the relevant state commission; (3) the customers served by the relinquishing ETC must continue to be served by an ETC; and (4) to the extent that additional facilities are required to serve any of the relinquishing ETC's customers, sufficient notice shall be

² 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4).

provided to ensure that the construction or purchase can be timely completed. The relevant FCC rule essentially reiterates the same requirements.³

T-Mobile's application for relinquishment of its ETC designation in Missouri complies with federal law and must be granted because: (1) there is currently more than one ETC serving the ETC Service Area; (2) T-Mobile is providing advance notice to the Commission of such relinquishment; (3) T-Mobile will continue providing service to its customers, and additionally, the remaining low income ETCs in the market should be able to serve the universal service needs of consumers within their respective designated service areas, which cover the ETC Service Area; and (4) no additional facilities will need to be purchased or constructed by the remaining ETCs.

1. There Is More Than One ETC Currently Serving the ETC Service Area

T-Mobile's ETC Service Area is currently served by more than one ETC. Besides T-Mobile, each wire center served by T-Mobile also is served by an incumbent local exchange carrier ("ILEC") that has ETC status.⁴ As ETCs and telecommunications carriers, these companies are required to offer and advertise service to everyone in their service areas, which would include all of the customers now served by T-Mobile. In addition, multiple providers of resold wireless service have been designated as ETCs throughout Missouri for purposes of providing discounted telephone service to qualifying low income customers.⁵ Because at least one other ETC (in addition to T-Mobile) serves in T-Mobile's ETC Service Area, applicable federal law requires the Commission to permit T-Mobile to relinquish its ETC designation.

³ 47 C.F.R. § 54.205(a).

⁴ All ILECs in Missouri are ETCs. In T-Mobile's ETC Service Area, the relevant ILEC is AT&T Missouri ("AT&T"). See Case No. TO-98-191.

⁵ See, e.g., TracFone Wireless, Inc. ("TracFone"), Case No. TA-2009-0327 (Sept. 5, 2009); Virgin Mobile USA L.P., Case No. RA-2012-0264 (Mar. 4, 2013).

2. T-Mobile Is Providing Advance Notice to the Commission

Consistent with 47 U.S.C. §214(e)(4) and 47 C.F.R. § 54.205(a), T-Mobile is filing this notice nearly three (3) months in advance of the requested effective date of relinquishment of its ETC designation. This advance notice satisfies the requirement to provide advance notice to the Commission of T-Mobile's intent to relinquish its ETC designation.

3. Both T-Mobile and the Remaining ETCs Will Serve Consumers

T-Mobile will continue to serve customers throughout the ETC Service Area, providing uninterrupted service upon the effective date of its relinquishment of its ETC designation. To the best of T-Mobile's knowledge, AT&T and TracFone will also continue to serve customers in the ETC Service Area. These carriers are ETCs. Thus, all customers within T-Mobile's ETC Service Area will continue to be served by an ETC consistent with 47 U.S.C. § 214(e).

T-Mobile has approximately 58 Lifeline customers in Missouri as of July 31, 2014. Following relinquishment of its ETC designation, effective December 31, 2014, T-Mobile will provide written notice to the former T-Mobile Lifeline customers that it no longer participates in the Lifeline program. The notice will inform these customers that they will receive courtesy credits in the amount of their Lifeline discount for 45 days. After that period of time, these customers may select an alternative calling plan from T-Mobile or they may obtain discounted Lifeline service from another provider. If a former T-Mobile Lifeline customer decides to obtain service from another provider, T-Mobile will not impose any non-recurring fees on such customer to transition their service.

4. No Additional Facilities Will Need to Be Purchased or Constructed by the Remaining Eligible Telecommunications Carriers

To the best of T-Mobile's knowledge, none of the remaining ETCs will be required to purchase or construct additional facilities to continue to serve consumers within the ETC Service

Area. Because the remaining ETCs currently serve the entire area in which T-Mobile is designated as an ETC in Missouri, the Commission need not provide notice to these carriers to permit them to purchase or construct facilities to ensure that T-Mobile's customers will continue to receive service.

Through this notice, T-Mobile has complied with all requirements of 47 U.S.C. §214(e)(4) and 47 C.F.R. § 54.205. There is no barrier to prevent T-Mobile from relinquishing its ETC designation in Missouri. Therefore, the Commission should accept T-Mobile's notice of relinquishment.

Because T-Mobile will not be seeking certification as an ETC going forward, T-Mobile will not be filing further annual ETC Certification Reports with the Commission.

IV. CONCLUSION

Consistent with all applicable requirements, T-Mobile respectfully requests the Commission expeditiously accept T-Mobile's notice of relinquishment of its ETC designation in Missouri. T-Mobile has demonstrated that it meets the requirements for relinquishment of its ETC designation.

Dated this 8th day of October, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

T-Mobile Central LLC

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