

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

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

In the Matter of the Petition of United Services,)
Inc. for Expanded Designation as an Eligible)
Telecommunications Carrier Pursuant to) **File No. DA-2021-0200**
Section 214(e)(2) of the Communications Act)
of 1934, as Amended)

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

Issue Date: March 3, 2021

Effective Date: April 2, 2021

On January 6, 2021, United Services, Inc. (United Services) requested authority to expand its existing Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) designation.¹ United Services was recently awarded federal Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) support to build broadband facilities in more rural areas. The RDOF funding requires United Services to extend broadband service to a designated number of locations in certain census blocks. United Services seeks to expand its ETC designation to include the census blocks it was awarded. United Services included Exhibits A1 and A2 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 10, 2021, filed its recommendation and memorandum.

¹ United Services is presently registered as an interconnected voice over internet protocol (IVoIP) service provider.

Staff recommended that the Commission approve United Services' request for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier for the purpose of receiving federal high-cost and low-income support for census blocks identified in the applicant's Exhibit A1. Staff further recommended approval of ETC status for the purpose of receiving solely federal low-income support for the census blocks identified in the applicant's Exhibit A2. Finally, Staff stated United Services met the requirements of Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-31.016 governing eligible telecommunications carriers. Staff notes that United Services 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.² Since no law requires a hearing, this is a non-contested case.³ Non-contested cases do not require formal proceedings or hearings before the Commission, and as such, there is no evidentiary record.⁴ 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 United Services has met the requirements for ETC designation. Further, for good cause shown, United Services will be granted a waiver of the 60-day filing requirement of the Commission's rules.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. United Services' application is granted. United Services is granted ETC designation in all census block groups described in Exhibit A1 to its application.

² 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(2).

³ *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).

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

2. United Services is granted ETC designation for the purpose of receiving solely federal low-income support for the census blocks described in Exhibit A2 to its application.

3. United Services is granted a waiver of the 60-day notice requirement of Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017.

4. This order shall become effective on April 2, 2021.

5. This file shall be closed on April 3, 2021.



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