

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

In the Matter of the Application of Big River)
Broadband, LLC d/b/a Circle Fiber for)
Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications)
Carrier to Receive Federal Lifeline and)
State Lifeline Support)
File No. DA-2022-0331

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission and submits its Recommendation as follows:

1. On May 27, 2022, Big River Broadband, LLC d/b/a Circle Fiber (“Circle Fiber” or “Company”) filed an Application for designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”) in order to receive federal and state Lifeline support.

2. The Company is currently registered in the state of Missouri as an interconnected voice over internet protocol (VoIP) and video service provider under the name Big River Broadband, LLC. Case Nos DN-2022-0367 & KN-2022-0360 are pending to change the company name to Big River Broadband, LLC d/b/a Circle Fiber.

3. Commission rule 20 CSR4240-31.016 governs the specific ETC requirements that each applicant must meet. Staff conducted an investigation and has provided a memorandum attached to this pleading as Appendix A. Staff’s memorandum outlines the reasons why Staff believes Circle Fiber has met the requirements of 20 CSR 4240-31.016. Staff also believes that the Commission should grant Circle Fiber ETC status for the purpose of receiving federal low-income support and Missouri USF support for the Lifeline program in the areas identified in the Company’s application.

WHEREFORE, Staff recommends that the Commission grant Big River Broadband, LLC d/b/a Circle Fiber request for designation as an eligible

telecommunications carrier for the purpose of receiving federal and state Lifeline support in the Jackson and Poplar Bluff municipalities and that it grant such other and further relief as the Commission finds appropriate in the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Ron Irving

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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 29th day of June, 2022, to all counsel of record.

/s/ Ron Irving

MEMORANDUM

To: Missouri Public Service Commission Official Case File
Case No. DA-2022-0331

From: Kari Salsman
Telecommunications Department

Subject: Staff's Recommendation to Approve Big River Broadband, LLC d/b/a
Circle Fiber's Request for ETC Designation

Date: June 29, 2022

On May 27, 2022 Big River Broadband, LLC d/b/a Circle Fiber (Circle Fiber) filed an application for designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) for the purpose of receiving federal low-income support and Missouri USF support in the areas designated in Exhibit 1 of its application. The company later supplemented its application. Circle Fiber, presently recognized by the Missouri Commission as Big River Broadband, LLC is a registered IVoIP and video service provider in Missouri.¹

Federal authority enables state commissions to grant ETC status to a company.² Missouri's ETC application requirements are contained in existing Missouri Commission rule 20 CSR 4240-31.016. Staff reviewed the company's request for compliance with Missouri's rule as well as federal requirements. In Staff's opinion the company has adequately met all ETC application requirements. Consequently Staff supports the company's application for ETC status.

Staff recommends the Commission grant ETC status to Big River Broadband, LLC d/b/a Circle Fiber for the purpose of receiving federal low-income support and Missouri USF support in the Jackson and Poplar Bluff municipalities.

¹ Case Nos. DA-2019-0354 & KA-2019-0347. Name change adopting d/b/a Circle Fiber is pending in Case Nos. DN-2022-0367 & KN-2022-0360.

² 47 U.S.C. §214(e)(2) and FCC rule §54.201.