

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

In the Matter of the Application of)
Cable One VoIP LLC d/b/a Sparklight)
for Designation as an Eligible)
Telecommunications Carrier For)
Purposes of Receiving Federal)
Low-Income Support and Missouri)
USF Support)

Case No. DA-2022-0008

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, by and through counsel, and for its Recommendation in this matter hereby states:

1. On July 6, 2021, Cable One VoIP LLC d/b/a Starlight (“Starlight”) 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 areas designated in *Exhibit 1* of its application. The Company’s request, if approved states that approval would permit it to continue offering comparable broadband services at a discounted rate after cessation of the federal electronic broadband benefit (EBB) program. Sparklight supplemented its application on July 7, 2021, to attach a Missouri Secretary of State Certificate of Registration for Cable One VoIP LLC and Registration of Fictitious Name for Sparklight.

2. The company is registered by the Missouri Public Service Commission to provide IVoIP service.¹

3. Commission rule 20 CSR 4240-31.016 governs the specific eligible telecommunications carrier requirements that each applicant must meet. Applications

¹ Case No. 2022-0007.

must also comply with 20 CSR 4240-2.060 and shall be verified by oath as the truthfulness contained in the application by an officer or director of the applicant.

4. 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 Sparklight has met the requirements of 20 CSR 4240-31.016 and should be granted an ETC designation.

5. As part of its application, Sparklight requested waiver of the Commission's 60-day notice requirement at 20 CSR 4240-4.017. Sparklight's application included a verified declaration that it has had no communication with the office of the commission within the prior one hundred fifty (150) days regarding any substantive issue likely to be in the case. In addition, Sparklight's application indicated that the EBB program is a temporary emergency program that will end the earlier of six months after the United States Department of Health and Human Services declares an end of the COVID-19 emergency or once the funds appropriate by Congress have been expended, and that Sparklight intends to continue to provide service at the conclusion of the EBB program.² For these reasons, Staff agrees there is good cause shown to waive the 60-day notice requirement at 20 CSR 4240-4.017.

WHEREFORE, Staff recommends the Commission grant Sparklight ETC status for the purpose of receiving federal low-income support and Missouri USF support in the geographic area identified in *Exhibit 1* of Sparklight's application; that it grant Sparklight's motion for waiver of the 60-day notice requirement at 20 CSR 4240-4.017; and that it grant such other and further relief as the Commission considers just in the circumstances.

² Application at 2-3.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Madeline McKernan

Rule 13 Law Student

/s/ Curt Stokes

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, or transmitted by facsimile or electronic mail to all parties and/or counsel of record this 6th day of August, 2021.

/s/ Curt Stokes

MEMORANDUM

To: Missouri Public Service Commission Official Case File
Case No. DA-2022-0008

From: Kari Salsman
John Van Eschen
Telecommunications Department

Subject: Staff's Recommendation to Approve Cable One VoIP LLC d/b/a
Sparklight's Request for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications
Carrier in Missouri

Date: August 6, 2021

On July 6th, Cable One VoIP LLC d/b/a Sparklight (Sparklight) 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 is registered by the Missouri Commission to provide IVoIP service.¹ Sparklight supplemented its application on July 7.

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 rules as well as federal requirements. In Staff's opinion the company has adequately met all requirements. Consequently Staff supports the company's application for ETC status.

Staff recommends the Commission grant Cable One VoIP LLC d/b/a Sparklight ETC status for the purpose of receiving federal low income support and Missouri USF support in the geographic area identified in Exhibit 1 of the company's application.

¹ Case No. DA-2022-0007

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