

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

In the Matter of the Application of N.W.)
Communications Co. d/b/a Fastwyre Broadband for)
Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications)
Carrier for Purposes of Receiving Federal and State)
Lifeline and Disabled Support)

Case No. CA-2023-0085

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 August 30, 2022, N.W. Communications Co. d/b/a Fastwyre Broadband (“Fastwyre”) filed its application with the Public Service Commission (“Commission”); wherein, requesting a designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”) for purposes of receiving federal Lifeline and state Lifeline and Disabled Support. Fastwyre’s request, if approved, would permit it to receive federal low-income and state low-income and disabled support to provide Lifeline and Disabled services (USF) to qualifying Missouri residents.

2. Fastwyre is registered as a Missouri Corporation with the Missouri Secretary of State. Fastwyre is certificated by the Commission to provide local and non-switched local telecommunications services pursuant to CA-2022-0183.

3. Commission rules 20 CSR 4240-31.014 and 20 CSR 4240-31.016 govern the specific Lifeline and Disabled Programs and eligible telecommunications carrier requirements that each applicant must meet. Applications must also comply with 20 CSR 4240-2.060 and shall be verified by oath as to the truthfulness contained in the application by an officer or director of the applicant.

4. The Commission also has federal authority to grant ETC status to a company pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(2) and 47 C.F.R. § 54.201.

5. 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 Fastwyre has met the federal requirements and the requirements of 20 CSR 4240-31.014, 20 CSR 4240-31.016, and should receive ETC designation.

6. Fastwyre sought waiver of the 60-day notice requirement pursuant to the Commission's rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017.

WHEREFORE, Staff recommends that the Commission approve Fastwyre's request for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier for the purpose of receiving federal low-income support and Missouri USF support to provide Lifeline and Disabled Support services in Missouri; that the ETC designation be a statewide designation; grant waiver of the 60-day notice provision; and that it grant such other and further relief as the Commission considers just in the circumstances.

/s/ J. Scott Stacey
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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 28th day of September, 2022, to all counsel of record.

/s/ J. Scott Stacey

MEMORANDUM

To: Missouri Public Service Commission Official Case File
Case No. CA-2023-0085

From: Kari Salsman, Senior Research/Data Analyst
Telecommunications Department

Subject: Staff's Recommendation to Approve N.W. Communications Co. d/b/a
Fastwyre Broadband's Request for ETC Designation

Date: September 28, 2022

On August 30, 2022 N.W. Communications Co. d/b/a Fastwyre Broadband (Fastwyre) filed an application for designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) for the purpose of receiving federal low-income support and Missouri USF support on a statewide basis. The company is certificated by the Missouri Commission to provide basic local and non-switched local telecommunications services.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 statewide ETC status to N.W. Communications Co. d/b/a Fastwyre Broadband for the purpose of receiving federal low-income support and Missouri USF support.

¹ Case No. CA-2022-0183

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