

**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 Mid-States)
Services, LLC for Expanded Designation as an)
Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Pursuant) **File No. DA-2021-0225**
to 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 15, 2021, Mid-States Services, LLC (Mid-States Services) requested authority to expand its existing Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) designation.¹ Mid-States Services was recently awarded federal Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) support to build broadband facilities in more rural areas. The RDOF funding requires Mid-States Services to extend broadband service to a designated number of locations in certain census blocks. Mid-States Services seeks to expand its ETC designation to include the census blocks it was awarded. Mid-States Services included Exhibit A 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 16, 2021, filed its recommendation and memorandum.

¹ Mid-States Services is presently registered as an interconnected voice over internet protocol (VoIP) service provider.

Staff recommended that the Commission approve Mid-States 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 A. Staff stated Mid-States Services met the requirements of Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-31.016 governing eligible telecommunications carriers. Staff notes that Mid-States 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 Mid-States Services has met the requirements for ETC designation. Further, for good cause shown, Mid-States Services will be granted a waiver of the 60-day filing requirement of the Commission's rules.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. Mid-States Services' application is granted. Mid-States Services is granted ETC designation in all census block groups described in Exhibit A to its application.
2. Mid-States Services is granted a waiver of the 60-day notice requirement of Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017.

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).

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