

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

In the Matter of the Application of PD Fiber, LLC)
for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications)
Carrier Pursuant to Section 214(e)(2) of the)
Communications Act of 1934, as Amended) **Case No. DA-2021-0294**

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 February 24, 2021, the Commission granted PD Fiber, LLC, (Company or PD Fiber) eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) status for certain census blocks identified in the Exhibits A1 and A2 filed with its *Petition* in that matter (Case No. DA-2021-0190). The status permits the Company to receive federal low-income support and high-cost support pursuant to the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) auction held by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The Company also sought support through the Missouri Universal Service Fund (MoUSF) for Lifeline and Disabled program purposes. However, the Commission’s *Order* granting ETC status did not authorize MoUSF support. PD Fiber on March 17, 2021, filed a request in this matter for the Commission’s authority to participate in the MoUSF.

2. Commission rule 20 CSR 4240-31.016 governs the specific 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.

3. The Company is presently registered in the state of Missouri as interconnected voice over internet protocol (IVoIP) service provider and has ETC status.

4. Staff recommends pursuant to its investigation that PD Fiber has met the requirements of 20 CSR 4240-31.016 and should be eligible to receive MoUSF support for Lifeline and Disabled program purposes.

WHEREFORE, Staff recommends that the Commission approve PD Fiber, LLC's, request for MoUSF low-income and disabled program support for the census blocks identified in Exhibits A1 and A2 of the *Petition* filed in DA-2021-0190; and that it grant such other and further relief as the Commission considers just in the circumstances.

/s/ Whitney Payne

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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 20th day of April, 2021, to all counsel of record.

/s/ Whitney Payne