

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

In the Matter of Gtech Fiber, LLC's)
Petition for Expanded Designation of)
An Eligible Telecommunications)
Carrier Pursuant to Section 214(e)(2))
Of the Communications Act of)
1934, as Amended)

Case No. DA-2024-0219

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 January 30, 2024, GTech Fiber, LLC, (Company or GTech) filed its *Petition for Designation as an Expanded Lifeline-Only Eligible Telecommunications Carrier* with the Commission requesting that the Commission issue an order granting the Company expanded eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) status to participate in the federal Universal Service Fund (USF) Lifeline program and the Missouri Universal Service Fund (MoUSF) to receive MoUSF subsidies including for the MoUSF Lifeline and Disabled programs in its approved service areas.

2. The Company is presently certificated in the state of Missouri as an interconnected voice over internet protocol (IVoIP) services provider. The Company included identification of the specific census blocks for which it requests the expanded ETC designation in Exhibit A of the Company's Petition.

3. GTech's *Application* references 4 CSR 240-2.060 and 4 CSR 240-31.015 and 31.016, however, those citations reference the Commission's rules prior to updates to the change in the Code of State Regulations chapter which houses the Commission's relevant rule provisions. Staff imagines this was an oversight and evaluates this

Application under the currently effective rules. Presently, 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.

4. Staff conducted an investigation and has provided a memorandum attached to this pleading as Appendix A. Staff's memorandum indicates that GTech has met the requirements of 20 CSR 4240-31.016 and should receive expanded ETC designation.

WHEREFORE, Staff recommends that the Commission approve GTech Fiber, LLC's, request for expansion of its designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier to participate in the federal Universal Service Fund Lifeline program as well as the Missouri Universal Service Fund and receive MoUSF subsidies including for the MoUSF Lifeline and Disabled programs in the additional areas identified in Exhibit A of the Company's Petition; and that it grant such other and further relief as the Commission considers just in the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Whitney Scurlock

Whitney Scurlock
Chief Deputy Staff Counsel
Missouri Bar No. 64078
Attorney for the Staff of the
Missouri Public Service Commission
P. O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-7434 (Telephone)
(573) 751-9285 (Fax)
whitney.scurlock@psc.mo.gov

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, to all parties or their representatives pursuant to the Service List maintained by the Commission's Data Center for this file, on this 28th day of February, 2024.

/s/ Whitney Scurlock

MEMORANDUM

To: Missouri Public Service Commission Official Case File
Case No. DA-2024-0219

From: Kari Salsman, Senior Research Data Analyst
Telecommunications Department

Subject: Staff's Recommendation to GTech Fiber, LLC's Request for Expansion of Existing ETC Designation

Date: February 28, 2024

On January 30, 2024, GTech Fiber, LLC (GTech) filed an application for expansion of their designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC).¹ The company is a registered IVoIP in Missouri.² GTech seeks to expand its ETC designation in order to provide federal and state Lifeline and Disabled discounts to additional census blocks.³

Federal authority enables state commissions to grant ETC status to a company.⁴ 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 expansion of its ETC status.

Staff recommends the Commission expand GTech Fiber, LLC's ETC status for the purpose of receiving federal low income support and Missouri USF support for the Lifeline and Disabled programs in the area identified by census blocks in Exhibit A of the company's application.

¹ ETC status granted in Case No. DA-2023-0077.

² Case No. CA-2020-0266. Name changed in Case No. DN-2022-0269.

³ Census Block Service areas are listed in Exhibit A of application.

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