BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

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In the Matter of the Application of Easy Telephone Service Company d/b/a Easy Wireless to Amend And Expand its Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier to Receive Federal Lifeline and State Lifeline Support

File No. TA-2024-0216

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) and for its *Staff Recommendation* in this matter states:

1. On January 18, 2024, Easy Telephone Service Company d/b/a Easy Wireless ("Easy Wireless" or "Company") filed an *Application to Amend and Expand Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation and Request for Waiver of 20 CSR 4240-4.017*. The Company was designated as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") in Case No. TA-2011-0164 and is now seeking to expand that designation in order to provide federal Lifeline discounts statewide. Easy Wireless is a wireless provider that is not certificated or registered by the Commission.

2. 47 U.S. Code §214(e)(2) permits state commissions to grant ETC status to a company. The Federal Communications Commission established the requirements for ETC designation in 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.201 and 54.202. The ETC application requirements for Missouri are included in 20 CSR 4240-31.016.

3. As explained in *Staff's Memorandum*, attached hereto as Appendix A, Staff conducted an investigation into Easy Wireless' application for compliance with the Commission's rules and federal requirements. Based on its review, Staff has determined that the Company has met the Commission's rules and federal requirements. Therefore, Staff recommends that the Commission expand Easy

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Wireless' ETC status to statewide for the purpose of receiving federal low income support. Staff also recommends that the Commission grant a waiver of the 60-day notice required by 20 CSR 4240-4.017.

WHEREFORE, Staff prays that the Commission will accept this *Staff Recommendation*; allow Easy Telephone Service Company d/b/a Easy Wireless to amend and expand its Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation to statewide; grant a waiver of the 60-day notice requirement of 20 CSR 4240-4.017; and grant such other and further relief as is just in the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

<u>/s/ Ron Irving</u>

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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 1st day of March, 2024, to all counsel of record.

/s/ Ron Irving

MEMORANDUM

To:	Missouri Public Service Commission Official Case File Case No. TA-2024-0216
From:	Kari Salsman, Senior Research/Data Analyst Telecommunications Department
Subject:	Staff's Recommendation to Easy Telephone Service Company d/b/a Easy Wireless' Request for Expansion of Existing ETC Designation
Date:	March 1, 2024

On January 18, 2024, Easy Telephone Service Company d/b/a Easy Wireless (Easy Wireless) filed an application for expansion of their designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC).¹ The company is a wireless provider and is not certificated or registered by the Missouri Commission. Easy Wireless seeks to expand its ETC designation in order to provide federal Lifeline discounts statewide.

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 expansion of its ETC status.

Staff recommends the Commission expand Easy Telephone Service Company d/b/a Easy Wireless' ETC status for the purpose of receiving statewide federal low income support.

¹ ETC status granted in Case No. TA-2011-0164.

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