

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

In the Matter of the Application of Steelville Long)
Distance Company, Inc. d/b/a STE Communications)
for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications)
Carrier for Purposes of Receiving Federal and State)
Lifeline and Disabled Support)

Case No. CA-2022-0185

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 12, 2022, Steelville Long Distance Company, Inc., d/b/a STE Communications (“STE” or “Company”) filed an application for designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”) for the purpose of receiving statewide federal low-income support and Missouri USF support. STE supplemented its application on February 17, 2022.

2. The Company is presently certificated in the state of Missouri as a competitive local exchange carrier (CLEC).

3. 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 outlines the reasons why Staff believes STE has met the requirements of 20 CSR 4240-31.016 and should be granted an ETC designation.

5. STE sought waiver of the 60 day notice requirement pursuant to the Commission's rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017. STE declares in its application that it has had no communication with the Office of the Commission within the prior 150 days regarding any substantive issue likely in the case. Staff recommends that the waiver be granted.

WHEREFORE, Staff recommends that the Commission approve Steelville Long Distance Company, Inc., d/b/a STE Communication's request for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier for the purpose of receiving statewide federal low-income support and Missouri USF support; that it grant waiver of the 60-day notice requirement; and that it grant such other and further relief as the Commission considers just in the circumstances.

/s/ Ron Irving

Ron Irving
Senior Counsel
Missouri Bar No. 56147
Attorney for the Staff of the
Missouri Public Service Commission
P. O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-8702 (Telephone)
(573) 751-9285 (Fax)
ron.irving@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, on this 18th day of February, 2022, to all counsel of record.

/s/ Ron Irving

MEMORANDUM

To: Missouri Public Service Commission Official Case File
Case No. CA-2022-0185

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

Subject: Staff's Recommendation to Approve Steelville Long Distance Company, Inc., d/b/a STE Communications Request for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in Missouri.

Date: February 18, 2022

On January 12th, Steelville Long Distance Company, Inc., d/b/a STE Communications (STE) filed an application for designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) for the purpose of receiving federal and state low-income support and is requesting ETC designation on a statewide basis. The Company will also participate in the Disabled program. The company later supplemented its application. STE is a certificated local exchange provider in Missouri.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 Steelville Long Distance Company, Inc., d/b/a STE Communications for the purpose of receiving federal and state low-income support.

¹ Case No. CA-2021-0117.

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