

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

In the Matter of the Application of TruConnect                    )  
Communications Inc. for Designation as an                        )  
Eligible Telecommunications Carrier                                )        **File No. TA-2024-0238**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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

1. On February 28, 2024, TruConnect Communications, Inc. d/b/a TruConnect (“TruConnect” or “Company”) filed an *Application of TruConnect Communications, Inc. for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of Missouri and Request for Waiver of 20 CSR 4240-4.017*. The Company is seeking designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”) for the purpose of receiving federal low-income support on a statewide basis. TruConnect 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 TruConnect’s 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 grant TruConnect ETC status 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*; grant TruConnect Communications, Inc. d/b/a TruConnect Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation 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,

**/s/ Ron Irving**

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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 15<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024, to all counsel of record.

**/s/ Ron Irving**

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Missouri Public Service Commission Official Case File  
Case No. TA-2024-0238

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

**Subject:** Staff's Recommendation to Approve TruConnect Communications, Inc.'s  
Request for ETC Designation

**Date:** April 15, 2024

On February 28, 2024, TruConnect Communications, Inc. ("TruConnect") filed an application for designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) for the purpose of receiving federal low-income support and is requesting ETC designation on a statewide basis. TruConnect is a wireless service provider and is not certificated or registered by the Missouri Commission.

Federal authority enables state commissions to grant ETC status to a company.<sup>1</sup> Missouri's ETC application requirements are contained in existing Missouri Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-31.016. Staff reviewed the TruConnect's request for compliance with Missouri's rule as well as federal requirements. In Staff's opinion TruConnect has adequately met all ETC application requirements. Consequently, Staff supports TruConnect's application for ETC status.

Staff recommends the Commission grant statewide ETC status to TruConnect Communications, Inc. for the purpose of receiving federal low-income support.

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<sup>1</sup> 47 U.S.C. §214(e)(2) and FCC rule §54.201.