

**STATE OF MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

At a session of the Public Service Commission held in its office in Jefferson City on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024.

In the Matter of the Application of The )  
Stoutland Telephone Company d/b/a Rally )  
Networks for Expanded Designation as an ) **File No. IA-2024-0332**  
Eligible Telecommunications Carrier for )  
Purposes of Receiving Federal and State )  
Lifeline and Disabled Support )

**ORDER GRANTING EXPANDED DESIGNATION AS  
AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER**

Issue Date: June 20, 2024

Effective Date: June 30, 2024

On May 6, 2024, The Stoutland Telephone Company d/b/a Rally Networks (Rally Networks) filed its application for expansion of its designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) to provide federal and state Lifeline and Disabled discounts to qualifying low-income and disabled subscribers.<sup>1</sup> Rally Networks currently provides local telecommunications and broadband internet access services in the Missouri exchange of Stoutland. Rally Networks seeks to expand its ETC designation state-wide. Rally Networks also requested a waiver of the 60-day notice requirement of Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017.

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<sup>1</sup> Rally Networks was certificated to provide basic local and non-switched local telecommunications services in File No. TA-88-39, and was registered to provide interconnected voice over internet protocol (VoIP) services in File No. DA-2024-0288.

The Commission issued notice and set a deadline for intervention. No intervention requests were received, and no party has requested a hearing.

The Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff) conducted an investigation and on June 4, 2024, filed its recommendation and memorandum. Staff recommended that the Commission approve Rally Networks' request for expansion of its ETC designation for the purpose of receiving federal low-income support on a statewide basis. Staff stated Rally Networks met the requirements of Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-31.016 governing eligible telecommunications carriers.

Under federal authority, the application is within the Commission's jurisdiction to decide.<sup>2</sup> Since no statute, ordinance, or constitutional provision requires a hearing, this is a non-contested case.<sup>3</sup> Non-contested cases do not require formal proceedings or hearings before the Commission.<sup>4</sup> Consequently, the Commission bases its decision on the verified filings.

Based upon its review of the verified application and Staff's recommendation and memorandum, the Commission finds that Rally Networks has met the requirements to expand its ETC designation.

Further, Rally Networks' application represents that it has not had contact with the Commission about any substantive issue connected to this pending application within 150 days before filing the application. Thus, for good cause shown, the Commission will waive application of the pre-filing notice requirements of Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017.

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<sup>2</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(2).

<sup>3</sup> *State ex rel. Yarber v. McHenry*, 915 S.W.2d 325, 328 (Mo. 1995).

<sup>4</sup> *State ex rel. Pub. Counsel v. Pub. Serv. Comm'n*, 210 S.W.3d 344, 353-354 (Mo. App. W.D. 2006).

So that Rally Networks may begin providing services in its expanded ETC designation areas, the Commission finds it reasonable to make this order effective in less than 30 days.

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:**

1. The Stoutland Telephone Company d/b/a Rally Networks' application is granted. Rally Networks' ETC designation is expanded statewide for the purpose of participating in federal and state Lifeline and Disabled support programs.
2. Rally Networks is granted a waiver of the 60-day notice requirement of Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017.
3. This order shall become effective on June 30, 2024.
4. This file shall be closed on July 1, 2024.



**BY THE COMMISSION**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Dippell".

Nancy Dippell  
Secretary

Hahn, Ch., Coleman, Holsman  
Kolkmeier, and Mitchell CC., concur.

Hatcher, Senior Regulatory Law Judge

**STATE OF MISSOURI**

**OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.**

**WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City, Missouri, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of June 2024.**



*Nancy Dippell*  
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**Nancy Dippell**  
**Secretary**

**MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**June 20, 2024**

**File/Case No. IA-2024-0332**

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**Enclosed find a certified copy of an Order or Notice issued in the above-referenced matter(s).**

**Sincerely,**



**Nancy Dippell  
Secretary**

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Recipients listed above with a valid e-mail address will receive electronic service. Recipients without a valid e-mail address will receive paper service.