STATE OF MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

At a session of the Public Service Commission held at its office in Jefferson City on the 25th day of September, 2024.

In the Matter of Wisper ISP, LLC's Application for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in an Expanded Service Area

File No. DA-2025-0055

ORDER GRANTING EXPANDED DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER

Issue Date: September 25, 2024

Effective Date: October 5, 2024

On August 14, 2024, Wisper ISP, LLC applied to expand the service area of its designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC).¹ Specifically, Wisper ISP seeks expanded ETC designation in order to serve additional census block service areas which comprised the service area that Aristotle Unified Communications Inc. (Aristotle) was awarded by the Federal Communications Commission in its Connect America Fund – Phase II. Wisper ISP will acquire the assets of Aristotle and will assume the obligations for Aristotle's assigned census blocks. Wisper ISP also requested a waiver of the 60-day notice requirement of Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1).

The Commission issued notice and set a deadline for intervention. No intervention requests were received.

The Staff of the Public Service Commission (Staff) conducted an investigation and on September 13, 2024, filed its recommendation. Staff recommended that the

¹ Wisper ISP was designated an ETC carrier in File No. CA-2019-0196, with its census block service area designation later expanded in File No. DA-2021-0373.

Commission approve Wisper ISP's request to expand its ETC designation to include the census blocks currently served by Aristotle. Staff stated Wisper ISP 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.² Since no law requires a hearing, this is a non-contested case.³ Non-contested cases do not require formal proceedings or hearings before the Commission.⁴ Consequently, the Commission bases its decision on the verified filings.

Based upon its review of the verified application and Staff's recommendation, the Commission finds that Wisper ISP has met the requirements for ETC designation.

The Commission will grant Wisper ISP's request for waiver of the 60-day notice requirement under 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1). The Commission finds good cause exists for waiver, based on the Company's verified declaration that it had no communication with the Commission regarding substantive issues in the application within 150 days before filing its application.⁵ In order to sooner allow Wisper ISP to advance the goal of deploying voice and broadband-capable networks in rural, high-cost areas, the Commission finds it reasonable to make this order effective in less than 30 days.

² 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(2).

³ In the Matter of Kansas City Power & Light Co.'s Request for Authority to Implement a General Rate Increase for Elec. Serv. v. Pub. Serv. Comm'n, 509 S.W.3d 757, 783-784 (Mo. App. W.D. 2016). ⁴ State ex rel. Pub. Counsel v. Pub. Serv. Comm'n, 210 S.W.3d 344, 353-354 (Mo. App. W.D. 2006).

⁵ 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1)(D).

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. Wisper ISP's application is granted. Wisper ISP's ETC designation is expanded to include the census blocks currently served by Aristotle. Those census blocks were set forth in Exhibit D to Wisper ISP's application and are attached to this order.

2. The 60-day notice requirement of Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1) is waived for good cause.

3. This order shall become effective on October 5, 2024.

4. This file shall be closed on October 6, 2024.



BY THE COMMISSION

Nancy Dippell

Nancy Dippell Secretary

Hahn, Ch., Coleman, Holsman and Mitchell CC., concur. Kolkmeyer, C., absent.

Hatcher, Senior Regulatory Law Judge

Exhibit D

Census Blocks in Missouri (SAC 429044)

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State	Compte	Comme Dia da	Chita	Commenter	Comme Diash
<u>State</u> MO	County Howell	<u>Census Block</u> 290910901002097	<u>State</u> MO	<u>County</u> Howell	Census Block
					290910906003057
MO	Howell	290910901003074	MO	Howell	290910906003060
MO	Howell	290910903001025	MO	Howell	290910906003065
MO	Howell	290910903001058	MO	Howell	290910906003081
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MO	Howell	290910904002133	MO	Oregon	291494801002028
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MO	Ozark	291534702003273			

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 25th day of September 2024.



ry Dippell

Nancy Dippell Secretary

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION September 25, 2024

File/Case No. DA-2025-0055

MO PSC Staff

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

Sincerely,

Mancy Dippell

Nancy Dippell Secretary

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