

At a session of the Public Service Commission held at its office in Jefferson City on the 14th day of May, 2025.

## ORDER APPROVING ETC RELINQUISHMENT

Effective Date: June 13, 2025

U.S. Cellular stated that it will notify the Commission of the effective date of its relinquishment upon approval of the transaction with T-Mobile by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and after a closing date for the acquisition is known. U.S. Cellular believes that approval could occur by mid-2025. The Commission gave notice of U.S. Cellular's filing, directed its Staff (Staff) to file a recommendation, and set a time for any other responses.

<sup>1</sup> All dates refer to 2025 unless otherwise indicated.

customers, and select assets is currently pending approval from the FCC. T-Mobile stated that after closing of the acquisition, T-Mobile will integrate U.S. Cellular's customers and assets into its own network and operations. T-Mobile also stated that it, through Assurance Wireless, USA. L.P., is an authorized Lifeline-only provider and intends to facilitate a seamless transition of U.S. Cellular's Lifeline customers. T-Mobile indicates that no U.S. Cellular Lifeline customer will be negatively impacted by the transition of assets, and that U.S. Cellular Lifeline customers will not need to take any action to retain their discount as they will continue on their current plans. T-Mobile states that it has ETC status in Missouri.

On April 30, Staff filed its Recommendation and Memorandum. Staff noted that the relinquishment is contingent upon, and concurrent with, the closing of the anticipated acquisition of U.S. Cellular's wireless business operations by T-Mobile. Staff states that U.S. Cellular Lifeline customers will be automatically switched to Assurance Wireless and be able to retain their existing plan, telephone number, and in general retain their current mobile device.

Staff stated that the requirements for relinquishment of ETC status are contained in Commission Rule 20 CSR-4240-31.015(4). The rule indicates a company can relinquish its ETC designation by providing a request signed by an authorized company official or representative at least 60 days prior to relinquishing ETC status, and demonstrating compliance with 47 U.S.C. 214(e)(4).

The federal requirements are codified in FCC rule 47 CFR 54.205 and are essentially intended to ensure the affected area will continue to be served by at least one ETC. In this instance, no Lifeline customers are at risk of being without service, as

U.S. Cellular intends to facilitate a seamless transition of its Lifeline customers to T-Mobile, through the Assurance Wireless brand.

Staff reviewed U.S. Cellular's request and stated that it has met the requirements of 20 CSR 4240-31.015(4) and is in compliance with 47 U.S.C. 214(e)(4). Staff recommends the Commission approve the relinquishment of U.S. Cellular's ETC designation in Missouri contingent upon, and concurrent with, the closing of the transfer of control to T-Mobile. Staff further recommends the Commission order U.S. Cellular to submit notice specifying the effective date of the ETC relinquishment once a closing date of the transfer to T-Mobile is known. Other than T-Mobile and Staff, no other parties responded to U.S. Cellular's filing.

Having reviewed U.S. Cellular's filing, T-Mobile's letter, and Staff's Recommendation and Memorandum, the Commission finds that U.S. Cellular has demonstrated compliance with Commission rules and with 47 U.S.C. 214(e)(4), and shall be permitted to relinquish its ETC designation.

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:**

1. USCOC of Greater Missouri, LLC d/b/a U.S. Cellular is permitted to relinquish its Eligible Telecommunications Carrier designation contingent upon, and concurrent with, the closing of the transfer of control of U.S. Cellular's wireless business operations to T-Mobile.
2. U.S. Cellular shall submit notice specifying the effective date of the ETC relinquishment when a closing date of the transfer to T-Mobile is known.
3. U.S. Cellular shall file a status update no later than September 11, 2025, if a closing date is yet unknown.

4. This order shall become effective on June 13, 2025.



**BY THE COMMISSION**

*Nancy Dippell*

Nancy Dippell  
Secretary

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

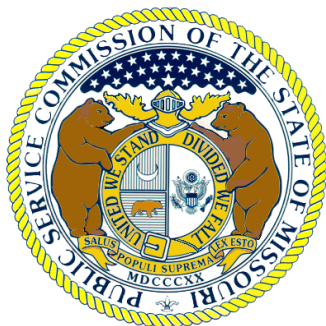
Hatcher, Senior Regulatory Law Judge

**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 14<sup>th</sup> day of May 2025.**



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

**MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**May 14, 2025**

**File/Case No. RD-2025-0265**

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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.