

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of New)
Florence Telephone, LLC d/b/a Rally)
Networks, New London Telephone)
Company d/b/a Rally Networks, Orchard) **Case No. IM-2026-0079**
Farm Telephone Company d/b/a Rally) Tracking Nos. JI-2026-0042,
Networks, and Stoutland Telephone) JI-2026-0043, and JI-2026-0044
Company d/b/a Rally Networks for the)
Merger and Modification of Certificate of)
Public Convenience and Necessity and)
Expanding Designation as an Eligible)
Telecommunications Carrier)

ORDER DIRECTING NOTICE, SETTING INTERVENTION DATE, AND DIRECTING FILING OF STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Issue Date: September 30, 2025

Effective Date: September 30, 2025

On September 26, 2025, New Florence Telephone, LLC (New Florence), New London Telephone Company, Orchard Farm Telephone Company, and The Stoutland Telephone Company, (collectively, “the Companies”), filed *Application to Modify Certificate of Public¹ Convenience and Necessity and Expand Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier and Request for Waiver²*. The application seeks to consolidate the Companies and the related service areas and consolidate its designations as Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (ETCs) and the related study areas.³ Included

¹ Note that this particular certificate of authority is labeled Certificate of Public Necessity and Convenience per Section 392.410, RSMo (2016).

² Note the application is divided between two cases, with Case No. DN-2026-0080 addressing the name change of the Interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (IVoIP).

³ See 47 U.S.C 54.207(b), “In the case of a service area served by a rural telephone company, *service area* means such company's ‘study area’...”.

with the application are tariff sheets, assigned Tracking Nos. JI-2026-0042, JI-2026-0043, and JI-2026-0044.

The application explains that the Companies are under common ownership of New Florence Holdings, Inc., which is a subsidiary of Oregon Telephone Corporation, a holding company. All four of the Companies meet the definition of incumbent local exchange telecommunications company (ILEC), and all do business under the fictitious name of Rally Networks.

The Companies have filed a similar petition with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regarding this merger. The application states that approval by the FCC may come as early as January 1, 2026, and propose to inform the Commission and its Staff of such progress in that case.

Subject to FCC approval, the Companies propose to merge all of their assets (including customer accounts) and liabilities relating to their telecommunications and broadband operations with and into New Florence. After this merger, New Florence will be the entity solely responsible for providing telecommunications and broadband services to the other Companies' customers (and the other Companies will cease providing those services). After the merger and FCC approval, New Florence will have the same service and study areas as all four companies; provide the same telecommunications and broadband services; and make the same filings with the Commission.

The application states that the merger of a telecommunications company with an existing certificate of service authority does not require Commission approval.⁴ However, New Florence requested to transfer the certificate authorizing service so that New

⁴ 20 CSR 4240-28.011(4).

Florence's certificate will include the same exchanges as the companies being merged and to ensure that New Florence is a "successor in interest" to those incumbent local exchange telecommunications companies.

The application also requested that the Commission expand the ETC designation of New Florence to include the three Missouri exchanges currently being served by the companies being merged. Lastly, the application requested waiver of the Commission's rule requiring 60-day notice before case filing.

Notice of the application shall be sent to all incumbent and competitive local exchange carriers certificated to provide service in Missouri. The Commission will set a date for the filing of intervention requests and direct the filing of a recommendation by the Staff of the Commission.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The Commission's Data Center shall mail a copy of this notice to every company authorized to operate as an ILEC in the State of Missouri.
2. The Commission's Data Center shall mail a copy of this notice to every company authorized to operate as a CLEC in the State of Missouri
3. The Commission's Data Center shall mail a copy of this notice to all ETCs authorized to provide service in Missouri.
4. Any person wishing to intervene in this matter shall file an application to do so no later than October 20, 2025. Such application shall be filed in the Commission's Electronic Filing Information System (EFIS) or with:

Secretary
Missouri Public Service Commission
Post Office Box 360
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

5. The Staff of the Commission shall file a recommendation, or a status report indicating when it will be able to file a recommendation, regarding this application no later than October 31, 2025.

6. This order shall be effective when issued.



BY THE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Dippell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nancy Dippell
Secretary

Charles Hatcher, Senior Regulatory
Law Judge, by delegation of authority pursuant
to Section 386.240, RSMo 2016.

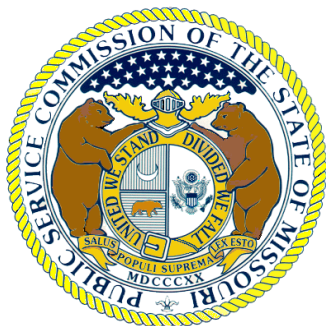
Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 30th day of September, 2025.

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 30th day of September 2025.



Nancy Dippell

Nancy Dippell
Secretary

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

September 30, 2025

File/Case No. IM-2026-0079

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Dippell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Nancy Dippell
Secretary**

Distributed to all ILEC, CLEC and ETC Companies authorized to provide service in Missouri.

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