

**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)	<u>Case No. IM-2026-0079</u>
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)	

In the Matter of the Application to Cancel)	
Stoutland Telephone Company d/b/a Rally)	<u>Case No. DD-2026-0098</u>
Networks IVoIP Registration)	

ORDER APPROVING APPLICATIONS

Issue Date: November 21, 2025

Effective Date: December 21, 2025

This order grants the application to consolidate the corporate organizations of affiliated companies.

On September 26, 2025, four companies filed an *Application to Modify Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and Expand Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier and Request for Waiver* (Application). In sum, the Application seeks to consolidate four affiliate companies into one. The Application also requested waiver of the Commission’s 60-day notice of case filing rule.

The four companies (together, “Companies”) are as follows:

- New Florence Telephone, LLC d/b/a Rally Networks (New Florence);
- New London Telephone Company d/b/a Rally Networks (New London);
- Orchard Farm Telephone Company d/b/a Rally Networks (Orchard Farm); and
- The Stoutland Telephone Company d/b/a Rally Networks (Stoutland).

The Application seeks to consolidate the Companies, with New Florence being the successor and remaining entity. The Application explains that the Companies are under the common ownership of New Florence Holdings, Inc., and that all four are Incumbent Local Exchange Telecommunications Companies (ILECs). In addition, New Florence is an Interexchange Telecommunications Company (IXC) and an Interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (IVoIP) provider. Stoutland is also an IVoIP provider. Included with the application are tariff sheets, assigned Tracking Nos. JI-2026-0042, JI-2026-0043, and JI-2026-0044. The three sets of tariff sheets are adoption notices and revised title sheets for New Florence's adoption of the existing tariffs of New London, Orchard Farm, and Stoutland.

The Companies also requested to consolidate their individual designations as Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (ETCs) and the related study areas.¹ All four affiliates are ETCs participating in the federal high-cost program, the federal and state Lifeline programs, and the Missouri Disabled program. The Application stated that all of the customers, including those receiving Lifeline and Missouri Disabled support, will continue to be served, without interruption, by New Florence.

Concurrent with this case, the Companies requested approval from the Federal

¹ 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'..."

Communications Commission (FCC).² The Application stated that approval by the FCC may come as early as January 1, 2026. Thus, the Application requested that the Commission's order be effective on January 1, 2026, or upon the FCC's granting of the requested waiver, whichever occurs later. The Application stated that the Companies will file an update within ten business days of the expiration of the FCC notice period as to an estimated or specific date the transaction should be considered effective.

After the 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). The Application sought to ensure that New Florence is a "successor in interest" to its affiliate ILECs: New London, Orchard Farm, and Stoutland. In other words, New Florence will be the surviving ILEC telecommunications provider with an expanded ILEC service area encompassing its original service area plus the service areas of the three affiliates.

Similarly, New Florence will be the surviving ETC with an expanded study area encompassing its original study area plus the study areas of the three affiliates. New Florence will also expand its IVoIP service area to include Stoutland's, and Stoutland will cease to be an IVoIP provider.³ Lastly, the Application requested waiver of the Commission's rule requiring 60-day notice before case filing.

The Commission issued notice and allowed time for applications to intervene. No requests to intervene were received. The Staff of the Commission (Staff) was directed to file a recommendation regarding the Application.

² The companies are requesting FCC approval to merge study areas of the Companies which are used in the calculation of federal universal service funding and interstate switched access rates. The request is pending in CC Docket No. 96-45 and a copy is contained in Exhibit 3 of Application.

³ New Florence was granted an IVoIP registration to provide services statewide in Case No. DA-2024-0287.

On October 31, 2025, Staff filed its Recommendation and Memorandum. Staff stated that the requirements to modify service areas are contained in Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-28.011(1)(A). ETC requirements are contained in 20 CSR 4240-31.016. Staff also stated that the requirements for relinquishment of ETC status are contained in 20 CSR 4240-31.015(4). This rule indicates a company can relinquish its ETC designation by providing a letter signed by an authorized company official or representative at least 60 days prior to relinquishing ETC status demonstrating compliance with 47 U.S.C. section 214(e)(4). These federal requirements are codified in FCC Rule 47 CFR 54.205 and essentially are intended to ensure the affected area will continue to be served by at least one ETC.

Staff's Recommendation and Memorandum stated that it was Staff's opinion that the Companies adequately met all state and federal requirements. Specifically, Staff recommended approval of the Companies' request to modify its service authority to provide basic local telecommunications service, expand the ETC designation of New Florence, and order the relinquishment of New London, Orchard Farm, and Stoutland's ETC designation contingent on and concurrent with the approval by the FCC.

The Commission has reviewed the Application, Staff's Recommendation and Memorandum, 47 U.S.C. 214(e)(4), 20 CSR 4240-28.011(1)(A), 20 CSR 4240-31.016, and 20 CSR 4240-31.015(4), and finds the Companies have complied with all statutory and regulatory requirements to modify its ILEC and IVoIP service authorities, expand New Florence's ETC designation, and relinquish the ETC designations of New London, Orchard Farms, and Stoutland. Therefore, the Commission will approve the Companies' request to modify the service authority, expand the ETC designation of New Florence,

and relinquish New London, Orchard Farm, and Stoutland's designation as ETCs – contingent on and concurrent with the approval by the FCC.

Case No. DD-2026-0098 (Stoutland's IVoIP)

Regarding Stoutland's requested cancellation of its registration to provide IVoIP telecommunication services in Case No. DD-2026-0098, Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-28.011(3) permits a company to cancel a certificate of service authority or registration by filing a letter signed by the company's official that identifies when and which certificate, registration, and any applicable tariff to cancel. Stoutland was granted an IVoIP registration in Case No. DA-2024-0288. Based on the request of Stoutland, the Commission finds that the IVoIP registration granted to it shall be cancelled – contingent on and concurrent with the approval by the FCC as indicated in Case No. IM-2026-0079, *supra*.

In addition, the Commission will grant the Companies' request for waiver of the 60-day notice of filing requirement. The Commission finds good cause exists for waiver, based on the verified declaration that there was no communication with the Commission regarding substantive issues in the Application within 150 days before filing.⁴

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The 60-day notice requirement of Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-4.017(1) is waived for good cause.
2. The Companies shall file an update in Case No. IM-2026-0079 within ten business days of the expiration of the FCC notice period regarding an estimated or specific date the transaction should be considered effective.

⁴ 20 CSR 4.017(1)(D).

3. The Application is approved, and the following actions shall be authorized as of the latter of January 1, 2026, or the effective date of the FCC Order, as follows:

- a. New Florence's Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to provide basic local telecommunications service expanded to include the exchanges served by New London, Orchard Farm and Stoutland;
- b. New Florence is acknowledged as a "successor in interest" to New London, Orchard Farm and Stoutland; therefore, New Florence is an ILEC as defined by Section 386.020(22), RSMo (Supp. 2024) in the exchanges of New London, Orchard Farm, and Stoutland;
- c. New Florence is authorized to adopt the intrastate tariffs of New London, Orchard Farm, and Stoutland contemporaneous with the modification of New Florence's certificate of service authority and expanded designation as an ETC. The tariff adoption notices are approved as follows:
 - i. Tracking No. JI-2026-0042; adopting New London's tariff, PSC MO No. 8;
 - ii. Tracking No. JI-2026-0043; adopting Orchard Farm's tariff, PSC MO No. 7; and
 - iii. Tracking No. JI-2026-0044; adopting Stoutland's tariff, PSC MO No. 5.
- d. New Florence's ETC designation shall be expanded to include the exchanges of New London, Orchard Farm, and Stoutland for the purpose of receiving federal USF high-cost and Lifeline support and state Lifeline and Disabled support;

- e. The ILEC Certificates of Service Authority of New London, Orchard Farm, and Stoutland are cancelled;
 - f. The ETC designations of New London, Orchard Farm, and Stoutland are cancelled; and
 - g. Stoutland's registration to provide IVoIP telecommunication services, granted in Case No. DA-2024-0288, is cancelled.
4. This order shall become effective on December 21, 2025.



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.

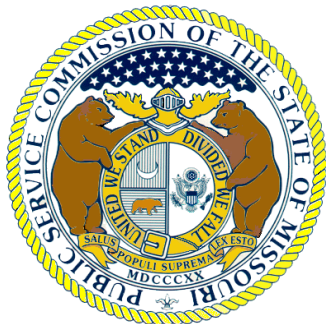
Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 21st day of November, 2025.

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 21st day of November 2025.



Nancy Dippell

Nancy Dippell
Secretary

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

November 21, 2025

File/Case No. DD-2026-0098 and 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,



**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.