

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of

STARLINK SERVICES, LLC

DOCKET UT-210059

ORDER 02

For Designation as an Eligible
Telecommunications Carrier in the State of
Washington Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §
214(e)(2)

GRANTING RELINQUISHMENT OF
ELIGIBLE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
CARRIER (ETC) DESIGNATION

BACKGROUND

1 On May 20, 2021, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) granted Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) designation to Starlink Services, L.L.C. (Starlink or Company) for purposes of participating in the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase I high-cost universal service program (RDOF Program) in Order 01 of Docket UT-210059.¹

2 On August 10, 2022, the Rural Broadband Auctions Task Force (RBATF), Wireline Competition Bureau (WCB or Bureau), and the Office of Economics and Analytics (OEA) denied Starlink Services’ RDOF “Long Form Application.” The public notice stated the Company’s application was denied and the Company was in default on all winning bids not already announced as defaulted, which includes the 7,849 census blocks the Company had won in Washington.²

3 On September 9, 2022, Starlink filed an application for review with the FCC.³

¹ See also, UTC Staff Memo and Attachment in Docket UT-210059, dated May 20, 2021.

² May 10, 2022, FCC Public Notice (page 8 under *Defaults*) and Attachment B (page 8 of 14) [11th RDOF Ready to Authorize Public Notice/Bid Defaults | Federal Communications Commission \(fcc.gov\)](https://www.fcc.gov/etcf/search/search-filings/filing/10909050172096).

³ See, “Starlink Services LLC RDOF AFR – For Public Inspection.pdf” – <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/search/search-filings/filing/10909050172096>.

4 On December 12, 2023, the FCC affirmed the WCB and OEA’s decision, denying approval of Starlink’s Long Form Application.⁴

5 On February 16, 2024, the Company filed a petition to relinquish its ETC designation in Washington (Relinquishment Petition) in Docket UT-210059.

6 Commission staff (Staff) has reviewed the FCC documents and the Relinquishment Petition and does not oppose the Relinquishment Petition. Staff believes the Relinquishment Petition is consistent with the WCB and OEA’s decision, as affirmed by the FCC, denying approval of Starlink’s Long Form Application.

7 Starlink is not only requesting to relinquish its ETC designation consistent with the FCC’s current decision, but also seeks to cancel its telecommunications registration with the Commission because the Company no longer intends to operate as a telecommunications company in Washington. Staff agree that cancellation of registration is also appropriate.

8 Staff recommends that the Commission grant Starlink’s requested relinquishment of ETC designation, effective April 12, 2024, in Docket UT-210059, and allow the Company’s voluntary cancellation of telecommunications registration to take effect April 12, 2024, in Docket UT-240148.

DISCUSSION

9 The Commission agrees with Staff that the Company’s Relinquishment Petition should be granted considering the decision of the WCB and OEA, as affirmed by the FCC. The Commission therefore grants the Company’s request to relinquish its ETC designation.

10 The Commission will separately consider the Company’s voluntary cancellation of its telecommunications registration in Docket UT-240148.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

11 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates, regulations, practices, accounts, and affiliated interests of public service companies and common carriers.

⁴ See, “FCC-23-105A1.pdf” - <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/search/search-filings/filing/12120744701403>.

- 12 (2) Starlink Services, LLC is engaged in the business of providing telecommunications services within the state of Washington and is a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 13 (3) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on April 11, 2024.
- 14 (4) After review of the petition filed in Docket UT-210059 on February 16, 2024, and giving due consideration, the Commission grants Starlink’s petition to relinquish its ETC designation.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 15 (1) Starlink Services, LLC’s Relinquishment Petition, filed February 16, 2024, is granted.
- 16 (2) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and Starlink Services, LLC to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective April 11, 2024.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Chair

ANN E. RENDAHL, Commissioner

MILTON H. DOUMIT, Commissioner