

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of

COMPUTER 5, INC. d/b/a LOCALTEL  
COMMUNICATIONS and SKYFI  
HIGHSPEED WIRELESS INTERNET

Seeking Designation as an Eligible  
Telecommunications Carrier in the state  
of Washington pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §  
214(e)(2)

DOCKET UT-180763

ORDER 02

ORDER RECOGNIZING ELIGIBLE  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
CARRIER DESIGNATION FOR  
RECEIPT OF SUPPORT FROM THE  
FEDERAL RURAL DIGITAL  
OPPORTUNITY FUND

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On January 31, 2019, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) designated Computer 5, Inc. d/b/a LocalTel Communications and Skyfi Highspeed Wireless Internet (Computer 5 or Company) as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) in the state of Washington under 47 U.S.C. § 214(e), applicable rules of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and chapter 480-123 Washington Administrative Code (WAC) throughout five counties in central and eastern Washington: Adams, Chelan, Douglas, Grant and Lincoln.
- 2 In early 2020, the FCC created the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF), which will commit up to \$20.4 billion over the next decade to support the deployment of voice and high-speed broadband services to unserved areas across the country.<sup>1</sup> The FCC concluded

---

<sup>1</sup> *Rural Digital Opportunity Fund; Connect America Fund*, WC Docket Nos. 19-126, 10-90, Report and Order, 35 FCC Rcd 686, ¶ 2 (released Feb. 7, 2020) (*RDOF Order*), clarified on reconsideration by *Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Auction (Auction 904); Rural Digital Opportunity Fund; Connect America Fund*, AU Docket No. 20-34, WC Docket Nos. 19-126, 10-90, FCC 20-127, Order on Reconsideration (released Sept. 29, 2020).

a reverse auction for RDOF Phase I support in November of 2020.<sup>2</sup> Computer 5 was the winning bidder for 1,527 census blocks located in Chelan, Douglas, and Grant counties in Washington state.<sup>3</sup> With RDOF support, the Company will provide voice and broadband service, including Lifeline service, to Washington consumers in 12,530 locations identified by the FCC as unserved by broadband service at speeds of at least 25 Mbps up and 3 Mbps down.

3 On March 25, 2021, Computer 5 filed a letter with the Commission stating that the Company does not seek or require any additional ETC designation from the Commission in connection with the FCC's RDOF auction because Computer 5 is already an ETC in all areas relevant to its RDOF award. In its filing, Computer 5 provided its FCC long-form application (FCC Form 683) with the Commission, addressing the Company's investment plans in the areas in Washington where it was a winning bidder in the Phase I auction.

4 Computer 5 is a competitive local exchange carrier (CLEC) in Washington and was authorized in 2019 to receive CAF-II Auction support as a "High-Cost Designated ETC" in five counties in Washington.<sup>4</sup> Computer 5's RDOF Phase I winning bid for the RDOF census blocks, in Chelan, Douglas and Grant counties, requires the Company to provide broadband service at speeds of least 1,000 Mbps downstream and 500 Mbps upstream<sup>5</sup>, in contrast to the 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream required for the CAF-II Auction census blocks.

5 Computer 5 provided its initial plan of investments in response to an information request from Commission staff (Staff). These investments will enable the Company to continue deployment of its wireline-based fiber-optic network and offer the services required for RDOF support. Computer 5 plans to meet the deployment milestones established for the RDOF program. The Company will offer commercially at least one voice and one

---

<sup>2</sup> See *Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase I Auction (Auction 904) Closes, Winning Bidders Announced, FCC Form 683 Due January 29, 2021*, AU Docket No. 20-34, WC Docket Nos. 19-126, 10-90, Public Notice (DA-20-1422A1), 35 FCC Rcd 13888 (Dec. 7, 2020).

<sup>3</sup> Appendix A is a list of the census blocks that the FCC awarded to Computer 5 in Washington. The list is an excerpt of the FCC's complete list of Phase I auction results nationwide.

<sup>4</sup> See Order 01 (Jan. 31, 2019).

<sup>5</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 54.805(b).

broadband service meeting the relevant service requirements to the required number of locations in the timeframe required by the RDOF rules.

6 Although specific rates for RDOF services are still being developed, the Company will set its rates for services at or below the FCC’s reasonable comparability benchmark for voice and broadband services.

7 Commission staff (Staff) acknowledges that the Company is not seeking additional ETC designation but recommends that the Commission enter a supplemental order in Docket UT-180763 to delineate the Company’s RDOF areas, where the FCC requires higher levels of service. A supplemental order, according to Staff, will inform the record and facilitate the Commission’s annual review and certification under WAC 480-123-060 of the Company’s use of federal universal service funds.

### DISCUSSION AND DECISION

8 Common carriers designated as ETCs under 47 U.S.C. § 214 are eligible to receive federal Universal Service Fund (USF) support. State utility commissions are responsible for designating common carriers as ETCs for the purpose of receiving such funds.<sup>6</sup>

9 In 2019, we designated Computer 5 as an ETC throughout all three of the counties in which the Company has been provisionally awarded RDOF support. It is not necessary to re-designate the Company as an ETC in these areas. However, we are concerned that the record provide clarity with respect to Computer 5’s RDOF obligations, which include providing gigabit tier broadband service in the RDOF census blocks. Therefore, we agree with Staff that it is worthwhile to enter an order recognizing the provisional award of RDOF support in the census blocks shown in Appendix A.

### FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

10 (1) The Commission has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this order and is authorized to designate Eligible Telecommunications Carriers in Washington under 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(2), 47 C.F.R. §54.201(b)–(c), RCW 80.36.610, and chapter 480-123 WAC.

---

<sup>6</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(2).

- 11 (2) Computer 5 is a telecommunications company doing business in the state of Washington and registered with the Commission.
- 12 (3) The Commission designated Computer 5 as an ETC throughout Adams, Chelan, Douglas, Grant and Lincoln counties in Order 01 entered in this docket on January 31, 2019.
- 13 (4) Computer 5 has been awarded RDOF support for service to 12,530 locations in 1,527 census blocks in Chelan, Douglas, and Grant counties. Computer 5's RDOF provisional award requires the Company to offer broadband service at speeds of at least 1,000 Mbps downstream and 500 Mbps upstream in the awarded areas.
- 14 (4) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 20, 2021.

**ORDER**

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

- 15 (1) The Commission recognizes that Computer 5, Inc., d/b/a LocalTel Communications and Skyfi Highspeed Wireless Internet has received a provisional award of federal Rural Development Opportunity Fund Phase I support in the census blocks set forth in Appendix A.
- 16 (2) The Company must provide separate annual ETC reporting to the Commission to distinguish among its deployment in the RDOF census blocks and in the CAF-II Auction census blocks.
- 17 (3) The Commission retains jurisdiction over this matter for purposes of effectuating this order.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective May 20, 2021.

**WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**DAVID W. DANNER, Chair**

**ANN E. RENDAHL, Commissioner**

**JAY M. BALASBAS, Commissioner**