

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES
AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the matter of the Petition of

RCC MINNESOTA, INC.

Docket No. UT-023033

For Designation as an Eligible
Telecommunications Carrier

**NOTICE OF AND PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF RELINQUISHMENT OF
ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER DESIGNATION**

- 1 RCC Minnesota, Inc. (RCC) pursuant to 47 USC §214(e)(4) and 47 CFR § 54.205, provides notice of its intent to relinquish, and respectfully requests the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) to approve, the relinquishment of its designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) in Washington RSA 8 – Whitman (RSA 8). In support of its relinquishment, RCC states the following:
- 2 By Order dated August 14, 2002, this Commission granted eligible telecommunications carrier status to RCC in, among other locations, Washington RSA 8.¹
- 3 Washington RSA 8 includes Asotin, Columbia, Garfield, Walla Walla and Whitman Counties (the Designated Area).

¹ *In the Matter of the Petition of RCC Minnesota Inc., for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier, Docket UT-023033, Order Granting Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (Aug. 14, 2002).*

- 4 On August 7, 2008, RCC was acquired by and became a subsidiary of Celco Partnership, d/b/a Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless). Verizon Wireless has assumed ownership and operational control of the business and is in the process of integrating the business operations and customers of the companies.
- 5 In connection with the Verizon Wireless merger, RCC was required by the Federal Commissions Commission to divest its wireless telecommunications operations or customers in Washington RSA 2 & 3. This Commission granted RCC's request to relinquish its ETC status in those markets, effective February 26, 2009.²
- 6 RCC has decided to relinquish its ETC designation in Washington RSA 8 and this notice is pursuant to and demonstrates that all the applicable requirements of 47 USC §214 (e)(4) are met. Section 214(e)(4) provides in relevant part as follows:

A State commission...shall permit an eligible telecommunications carrier to relinquish its designation as such a carrier in any area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier. An eligible telecommunications carrier that seeks to relinquish its ... designation ...shall give advance notice to the State commission...of such relinquishment. Prior to permitting ... an eligible telecommunications carrier to cease providing universal service..., the state commission...shall require the remaining eligible telecommunications carrier[s] ...to ensure that all customers served by the relinquishing carrier will continue to be served, and shall require sufficient notice to permit the purchase or construction of adequate facilities by any remaining eligible telecommunications carrier.

FCC rules contain almost identical provisions. *See* 47 CFR §54.205.

- 7 As demonstrated in the following paragraphs, RCC fulfills the foregoing requirements for ETC relinquishment.
- 8 RCC's designated service area includes each of the incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC) wire centers and/or study areas set forth on **Exhibit 1**.

- 9 As set forth in 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4) and 47 C.F.R. § 54.205(a) and (b), in any area served by at least one (1) other ETC, federal law *requires* the Commission to approve the relinquishment of an ETC designation. The Commission may “ensure that all customers served by the relinquishing carrier will continue to be served” by requiring “sufficient notice to permit the purchase or construction of adequate facilities by any remaining eligible telecommunication carrier.” *Id.*; These objectives are satisfied in this case.
- 10 Following relinquishment of its ETC designation, RCC will continue to offer and provide wireless service throughout Washington RSA 8.
- 11 Following relinquishment of RCC’s ETC designation, each of the ILEC wire centers identified on **Exhibit 1** will also continue to be served by the incumbent ETC. To the best of RCC’s knowledge, each of the ILECs within the designated area has been designated an ETC. In addition to the incumbent ETCs, other carriers such as Inland Cellular and United States Cellular Corporation, Cingular Wireless, LLC, dba AT&T Wireless are designated as ETCs in Washington and serve all or portions of RCC’s service area. Upon information and belief, these ETC’s have in place adequate facilities to serve any RCC customer that changes carrier due to RCC’s ETC relinquishment. As designated ETCs, the ILECs and these other carriers must provide service either as a carrier-of-last-resort or in response to a reasonable request, including compliance with any applicable service extension and Lifeline service discount provision requirements. Customers therefore will continue to have choices for service from existing ETCs.
- 12 RCC currently has approximately 256 customers in Washington RSA 8 that receive Lifeline service discounts. RCC will provide written notice by U.S. Mail to each of its then current Lifeline customers advising that RCC will no longer provide service discounts as an ETC. The

² *In the Matter of the Petition of RCC Minnesota Inc., for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier, Docket UT-023033, Order Granting Petition for Partial Relinquishment of Eligible Telecommunications Carrier*

notice will inform customers that the monthly Lifeline credit will be discontinued in sixty (60) days following the date of the letter, which will be sent promptly after RCC receives approval by this Commission of relinquishment of its ETC status. RCC will offer each of these subscribers the option of continuing to receive service without the discount. The notice will further inform each customer that Lifeline discounted service may be obtained from one of the remaining ETCs in the area.


- 13 Promptly upon approval of the ETC relinquishment by the Commission as required by law, RCC will provide notice to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) of the relinquishment and that it should cease to receive universal service with respect to Washington RSA 8.

14 Wherefore, RCC Minnesota, Inc., having provided notice and fulfilled the requirements of law, requests that an order be entered acknowledging that it relinquished, and is relieved of, its designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier with respect to Washington RSA 8 effective May 1, 2009 or as soon as practicable.

Dated: April 22, 2009

Respectively submitted,

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EXHIBIT 1

**ILEC WIRE CENTERS
SUBJECT TO ETC RELINQUISHMENT**

SAC	Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier	Wire Center Name	CLLI Code
522404	Asotin Telephone Co.	Anatone	ANATWAXX
522404	Asotin Telephone Co.	Asotin	ASOTWAXA
522408	CenturyTel of Washington, Inc.	Eureka	EURKWAXA
522408	CenturyTel of Washington, Inc.	Starbuck	STRBWAXA
522423	Inland Telephone Co.	Prescott	PRSCWAXA
522423	Inland Telephone Co.	Uniontown	UNTWAXA
522437	Pioneer Telephone Co.	Endicott	ENDCWAXA
522437	Pioneer Telephone Co.	Lacrosse	LCRSWAXA
525161	Qwest Corporation	Colfax	CLFXWA01
525161	Qwest Corporation	Dayton	DYTNWA01
525161	Qwest Corporation	Pasco	PASCWA01
525161	Qwest Corporation	Pomeroy	PMRYWA01
525161	Qwest Corporation	Waitsburg	WTBGWA01
525161	Qwest Corporation	Walla Walla	WLWLWA01
475103	Qwest Corporation - ID	Clarkston	LSTNIDSH
522442	St John Telephone	Saint John	STJHWAXA
522416	Verizon Northwest Inc.-WA	Farmington	FRTNWAXX
522416	Verizon Northwest Inc.-WA	Garfield	GRFDWAXX
522416	Verizon Northwest Inc.-WA	Oakesdale	OKDLWAXX
522416	Verizon Northwest Inc.-WA	Palouse	PALSWAXX
522416	Verizon Northwest Inc.-WA	Pullman	PLMNWAXX
522416	Verizon Northwest Inc.-WA	Rosalia	ROSLWAXA
522416	Verizon Northwest Inc.-WA	Tekoah	TEKOWAXX
522416	Verizon Northwest Inc.-WA	Thornton	THTNWAXA