

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of

T-MOBILE WEST LLC

For Relinquishment of Its Lifeline-Only
Eligible Telecommunications Carrier
Designation Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §
214(e)(4).

DOCKET UT-220663

ORDER 01

GRANTING RELINQUISHMENT OF
LIFELINE-ONLY ELIGIBLE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
CARRIER DESIGNATION FOR ALL
AREAS SERVED BY
T-MOBILE WEST LLC

BACKGROUND

- 1 On September 1, 2022, T-Mobile West LLC (T-Mobile or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) its Petition for Relinquishment of its Lifeline-Only (LLO) Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) designation pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4) (Petition).
- 2 The Commission previously designated T-Mobile as a Lifeline-Only (LLO) ETC on January 28, 2021, in Order 01 in Docket UT-201000.
- 3 In its Petition, T-Mobile seeks to relinquish its LLO ETC designation in Washington, effective December 31, 2022. This determination is based on a number of considerations including the Company’s own business plan and requirements.
- 4 Although T-Mobile seeks to relinquish its LLO support, T-Mobile submits that it is committed to expanding 5-G coverage in the rural U.S. and that there are a number of other ETCs providing Lifeline service throughout the Company’s service area. A list of the exchanges for which T-Mobile now seeks ETC relinquishment of Lifeline-only exchange areas is attached as Appendix A to this order with updated names for each of the companies referenced.
- 5 Commission staff (Staff) has reviewed T-Mobile’s Petition and supporting documents. Staff recommends that the Commission grant the Company’s Petition. Staff submits that

the service areas in question are served by other ETCs and that customers will not be materially impacted by granting the Petition.

DISCUSSION

6 We agree with Staff’s recommendation and grant T-Mobile’s Petition. Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4), a state commission shall permit an ETC to relinquish its designation as such a carrier in any area served by more than one ETC. The state Commission shall require the remaining ETCs to ensure that all customers are served in the service area at issue.

7 T-Mobile’s Petition meets the requirements of 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4). Because the remaining ETCs in these markets will be able to serve customers without purchasing or constructing additional facilities, it is not necessary for the Commission to require further action from the remaining ETCs.

8 T-Mobile requests that the Commission grant its Petition with an effective date of December 31, 2022. Because T-Mobile’s Petition satisfies the requirements in 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4) by providing the Commission “advance notice” of its intent to relinquish an ETC designation and the requested effective date is subsequent to the date of the Petition, the Commission grants the Company’s requested effective date.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

9 (1) The Commission has jurisdiction over eligible telecommunications carriers in Washington and the subject matter of this Order pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4), 47 C.F.R. § 54.205(a) and WAC 480-07-370(3).

10 (2) The Commission has designated T-Mobile an ETC pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1), 47 C.F.R. § 54.201(d), and WAC 480-123-030. T-Mobile currently provides service in the exchanges listed in Appendix A to this Order.

11 (3) Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4), T-Mobile is permitted to relinquish its ETC designation with advance notice to the Commission in any areas served by more than one ETC.

12 (4) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on October 27, 2022.

- 13 (5) After reviewing T-Mobile's Petition and giving due consideration to all relevant matters, the Commission grants T-Mobile's Petition and allows the Company to relinquish its LLO ETC designation effective December 31, 2022.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 14 (1) T-Mobile West LLC's Petition is granted, and the Company is allowed to relinquish its ETC designations as set forth in paragraph 13, above.
- 15 (2) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and T-Mobile West LLC to effectuate the provisions of this Order.
- 16 (3) The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, October 27, 2022.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

AMANDA MAXWELL
Executive Director and Secretary

APPENDIX A