

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

In the Matter of the Petition of

T-MOBILE WEST LLC

For Conversion of its High-Cost Eligible
Telecommunications Carrier Designation
and for Relinquishment of Its Mobility
Fund I Eligible Telecommunications
Carrier Designation Pursuant to 47
U.S.C. § 214(e)(4).

DOCKET UT-201000

ORDER 01

GRANTING ELIGIBLE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
CARRIER DESIGNATION FOR
LIFELINE-ONLY AND
RELINQUISHMENT OF ALL
PREVIOUS HIGH-COST ETC
DESIGNATIONS (INCLUDING
MOBILITY FUND I) FOR
T-MOBILE WEST LLC

BACKGROUND

- 1 On December 21, 2020, T-Mobile West LLC (T-Mobile or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a Petition for Conversion of its High-Cost Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) Designation and for Relinquishment of its Mobility Fund I Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4) (Petition).
- 2 The Commission previously designated T-Mobile as an ETC. On October 14, 2010, in Order 01 in Docket UT-101060, the Commission designated the Company as an ETC for purposes of receiving federal high-cost support and low income (Lifeline) universal service support. On June 14, 2012, in Order 01 in Docket UT-120512, the Commission granted the Company conditional designation as an ETC for purposes of participating in the Mobility Phase I auction.
- 3 In its Petition, T-Mobile seeks to convert its high-cost ETC designation to Lifeline-only and relinquish its Mobility Phase I ETC designation in Washington, effective December 31, 2020. This determination is based on a number of considerations, including expiration of the Company’s Mobility Phase I funding and obligations in Washington; the new 5-G

high-cost support requirements adopted by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC); and the Company's own business plan and requirements.

4 Although T-Mobile seeks to relinquish its high-cost universal service 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 Mobility Phase I service area. The Company will continue to serve all current customers except for the one customer remaining in the Mobility Phase 1 census blocks. This customer will have the choice of another provider within the Mobility Phase 1 census block where they reside. T-Mobile submits that no additional facilities will need to be purchased or constructed to serve the customers in these service areas. The exchanges for which T-Mobile now seeks ETC re-designation as Lifeline-only (LLO) exchanges *are listed in the Appendix 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). T-Mobile will continue to provide Lifeline service in its current high-cost ETC service area, and there is more than one ETC providing service in the Company's Mobility Phase I service area. Because T-Mobile and 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 this Petition with an effective date of December 31, 2020. The statute in question, 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4), merely requires that the Company provide the Commission "advance notice" of its intent to relinquish an ETC

designation. Because T-Mobile's Petition satisfies the statute's requirements and the requested effective date is subsequent to the date of the Petition, the Commission approves 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)(2), 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.201(b)-(c) and WAC 480-123-040.
- 10 (2) The Commission has designated T-Mobile as 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 the Appendix 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 January 28, 2021.
- 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 High-Cost and Mobility Phase I ETC designations effective December 31, 2020.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 14 (1) T-Mobile West LLC's Petition is granted, and the T-Mobile West LLC is allowed to relinquish its High-Cost and Mobility Phase I Eligible Telecommunications Carrier designations effective December 31, 2020.
- 15 (2) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and T-Mobile West LLC to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, January 28, 2021.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARK L. JOHNSON
Executive Director and Secretary