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Docket No. 38390

In Re: Application of Sage Telecom Communications, LLC for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of Georgia

ORDER AMENDING ETC DESIGNATION

I. Background

On September 9, 2015, the Georgia Public Service Commission designated Sage Telecom Communications, LLC ("Sage") as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC").

On October 7, 2015, the Commission amended Sage's ETC designation to include a reporting requirement.

On January 19, 2018, Sage filed an Application to Expand ETC Service Area, in which it requested that the Commission expand Sage's previously authorized service area to include the wire centers in which T-Mobile was found to have sufficient coverage in Docket No. 32967[1]. Sage also requested that the Commission update its ETC Designation to reflect its new trade name, "TruConnect." On February 9, 2018, the Commission approved the addition of the trade name and the expansion of Sage's ETC territory to include the T-Mobile wire centers, subject to the condition that Sage use T-Mobile as its underlying carrier for all customers located within the wire centers served by T-Mobile but not by Sage's other underlying carrier, Sprint.

On September 11, 2023, Sage filed an Application to Expand Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Service Area ("2023 Application to Expand") in which it asserts that it has added Verizon Wireless as an underlying carrier and requests that the Commission expand its ETC service territory to include the wire centers within the wireless network coverage of Verizon Wireless.

[1] *Application of T-Mobile South LLC for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier pursuant to Section 214(e)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934*

On January 23, 2024, Verizon Wireless filed a letter in Docket No. 36946 that included a list of the counties, rather than wire centers, in Georgia in which it meets the 40% population threshold established by the Commission in Docket No. 32967.

On February 16, 2024, at the request of Staff, Sage filed a supplement to its petition which included updated financial information and evidence that it is an authorized reseller of Verizon Wireless.

II. Staff Recommendation

Staff reviewed Sage's 2023 Application to Expand and recommended approval of Sage's request to expand its ETC designation. Staff recommended that the Commission include the counties identified by Verizon Wireless as having met the 40% population coverage requirement. Staff further recommended that approval of the ETC territory expansion should be subject to the condition that Sage use Verizon Wireless as its underlying carrier for all customers located within the additional service territory not served by its other underlying carriers. If more than one underlying carrier is associated with a customer's wire center and county, Sage may select from among the carriers that are associated with that wire center and county. Attachment 1 to this order includes all of the counties included in this conditional approval.

III. Commission Decision

The Commission finds the Staff's recommendation reasonable and hereby adopts it.

* * * * *

WHEREFORE, it is

ORDERED, that Sage's ETC Designation is hereby amended to include the counties identified by Verizon as having met the 40% population coverage requirement. The counties are included in Attachment 1 to this Order.

ORDERED FURTHER, that approval of these counties is subject to the condition that Sage use Verizon Wireless as its underlying carrier for all customers located within the additional service territory not served by its other underlying carriers. If more than one underlying carrier is associated with a customer's wire center and county, Sage may select from among the carriers that are associated with that wire center and county. Attachment 1 to this order includes all of the counties included in this conditional approval.

ORDERED FURTHER, that a motion for reconsideration, rehearing, oral argument, or any other motion shall not stay the effective date of this Order, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission.

ORDERED FURTHER, that jurisdiction over this matter is expressly retained for the purpose of entering such further Order(s) as this Commission may deem just and proper.

The above by action of the Commission in Administrative Session on the 20th day of February 2024.

Sallie Tanner
Executive Secretary

2-22-24
DATE

Jason Shaw
Chairman

2-22-24
DATE

ATTACHMENT 1 (Verizon Wireless)

COUNTIES

Appling
Atkinson
Bacon
Baker
Baldwin
Banks
Barrow
Bartow
Ben Hill
Berrien
Bibb
Bleckley
Brantley
Brooks
Bryan
Bulloch
Burke
Butts
Calhoun
Camden
Candler
Carroll
Catoosa
Charlton
Chatham
Chattahoochee
Chattooga
Cherokee
Clarke
Clay
Clayton
Clinch
Cobb
Coffee
Colquitt
Columbia
Cook
Coweta
Crawford
Crisp
Dade
Dawson
Decatur
De Kalb
Dodge
Dooly
Dougherty
Douglas
Early
Echols
Effingham
Elbert
Emanuel
Evans
Fannin
Fayette
Floyd
Forsyth
Franklin
Fulton
Gilmer
Glascock
Glynn
Gordon
Grady
Greene
Gwinnett
Habersham
Hall
Hancock
Haralson
Harris
Hart
Heard
Henry
Houston
Irwin
Jackson
Jasper
Jeff Davis
Jefferson
Jenkins
Johnson
Jones
Lamar
Lanier
Laurens
Lee
Liberty
Lincoln
Long
Lowndes
Lumpkin
Mcduffie
Mcintosh
Macon
Madison
Marion
Meriwether
Miller
Mitchell
Monroe
Montgomery
Morgan
Murray
Muscogee
Newton
Oconee
Oglethorpe
Paulding
Peach
Pickens
Pierce
Pike
Polk
Pulaski
Putnam
Quitman
Rabun
Randolph
Richmond
Rockdale
Schley
Screven
Seminole
Spalding
Stephens
Stewart
Sumter
Talbot
Taliaferro
Tattnall
Taylor
Telfair
Terrell
Thomas
Tift
Toombs
Towns
Treutlen
Troup
Turner
Twiggs
Union
Upson
Walker
Walton
Ware
Warren
Washington
Wayne
Webster
Wheeler
White
Whitfield
Wilcox
Wilkes
Wilkinson
Worth