Southern Linc

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

April 1, 2024

Mrs. Sallie Tanner
Executive Secretary
Georgia Public Service Commission
244 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30334

RE: Order Granting ETC Status; Application of Southern Communications Services, Inc. d/b/a Southern Linc for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of Georgia - Docket No. 27241

Dear Mr. McAlister:

Pursuant to the November 18, 2008, Order of the Georgia Public Service Commission ("Commission") in Docket No. 27241 ("Order"), Southern Communications Services, Inc. d/b/a Southern Linc, ("Southern Linc," or "Company") hereby provides the Commission the information the Company is required to file by March 31, 2024. This filing contains the following four categories of information.

1. Estimated Service Area Increase; New Facilities. Attachment 1 is a map showing Southern Linc's actual coverage area in the State of Georgia as of January 1, 2023, and as of December 31, 2023. The areas shown in green reflect the Company's actual coverage area as of January 1, 2023, and the areas shown in blue reflect new facilities added during the calendar year 2023. Southern Linc made capital investments totaling **REDACTED** in its service area in Georgia during 2023.

2. Customer Refusals. Since Southern Linc's designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") became effective on November 18, 2008, the Company has not refused to serve a customer.

3. Estimated Total 2024 Federal Funds to be Received. During calendar year 2023, Southern Linc received a total of **REDACTED** from the Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC") in federal high-cost support. This amount reflects the imposition of a five year phase out of high-cost support to competitive eligible telecommunications carriers, such as Southern Linc, imposed by the Federal Communications Commission in its Order released November 18, 2011.[1] Relying on USAC's projections,[2] Southern Linc estimates that the total federal high-cost funds to be received in 2024 will be approximately **REDACTED**.

[1] In the Matter of Connect America Fund, A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates for Local Exchange Carriers, High-Cost Universal Service Support, Developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Lifeline and Link-Up, Universal Service Reform – Mobility Fund, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 07-135, 05-337, 03-109, GN Docket No. 09-51, CC Docket Nos. 01-92, 96-45, and WT Docket No. 10-208, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

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4. Identification of Wire Centers and Associated ILECs; estimated expenses. Attachment 3 lists each wire center in which the Commission designated Southern Linc as an ETC, the name of the ILEC associated with that wire center, the estimated 2023 expenses, the actual 2023 expenses, and estimated 2024 expenses for those areas.

This filing contains information that is being filed under the **TRADE SECRET** rules of the Commission. Therefore, Southern Linc is also enclosing a redacted version of this filing and the required basis for the trade secret assertion for public disclosure. An original and five (5) copies of the **TRADE SECRET** and the public disclosure documents are provided.

Please contact me at (678) 443-1716 if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ W. Bryant Peters

W. Bryant Peters
Attorney

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[2] See First and Second Quarter Appendices 2022; HC01 – High Cost Support Projected by State by Study Area available at http://www.usac.org/about/tools/fcc/filings/2019/q2.aspx. Southern Communications Services, Inc.'s monthly frozen support amount for January 2017 through June 2017 is **REDACTED**. From July through December 2017, the monthly frozen amount will be approximately 66.67% of **REDACTED**.