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DOCKET# 56347
DOCUMENT# 224573

Docket No. 56347

In Re: Application of City of Colquitt, Georgia for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Pursuant to Section 214(e)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended

ORDER ON APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER

Background

On August 6, 2025, City of Colquitt, Georgia ("Colquitt") filed with the Georgia Public Service Commission ("Commission") its Application for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Pursuant to Section 214(e)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended ("Application").

Colquitt requests designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier ("ETC") in order to receive Rural Digital Opportunity Fund ("RDOF") support for certain census blocks in Study Area Code 229033 covering 2,000 locations in Miller County, Georgia that were previously approved by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") and the Commission for Point Broadband Fiber Holding, LLC ("Point Broadband"). *Application, p. 1.*

The Commission designated Point Broadband as an ETC on January 5, 2021 in Docket No. 43705.

In its Application, Colquitt states:

> Colquitt and Point Broadband have entered into an Assignment and Assumption Agreement ("Agreement") with respect to the Assigned Census Blocks by which Point Broadband has agreed to assign to Colquitt,

subject to Commission approval of this ETC designation petition and FCC approval of the assignment of Point Broadband's domestic Section 214 authorization to Colquitt: (a) the assets Point Broadband acquired with RDOF support, including engineering plans, pole attachment rights, power, real property and transport services, (b) customer accounts for approximately 120 Point Broadband subscribers located in the Assigned Census Blocks, (c) RDOF support that has not been expended as of the consummation of the proposed transaction, and (d) the right to receive all future RDOF support for the Assigned Census Blocks, estimated to be $424,107.47 in annual support. At Closing, Colquitt will acquire the above assets and assume all of Point Broadband's obligations associated with the receipt of RDOF support for these locations. Colquitt is not acquiring any of Point Broadband's telecommunications assets, services, or customers outside the Assigned Census Blocks. The transaction will not result in any loss or impairment of service for either party's subscribers. Colquitt plans to develop and operate a municipally owned fiber optic and wireless broadband network for rural consumers in the Assigned Census Blocks and has committed significant resources to complement the RDOF support and other assets it will obtain as a result of the proposed transaction.

In connection with this transaction, Point Broadband and Colquitt have filed an application with the FCC for the assignment of Point Broadband's domestic Section 214 authorization for the Assigned Census Blocks. Concurrently herewith, Point Broadband is submitting to the Commission a request for relinquishment of its ETC designation for the Assigned Census Blocks, to be effective upon consummation of the transaction.

Id., pp. 1-2, footnotes omitted

To be designated as an ETC, an applicant must be a common carrier pursuant to Section 214(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. For voice service, 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(a)(1) requires ETCs to provide the following services and functionality: voice grade access to the public switched network or its functional equivalent; minutes of use for local service provided at no additional charge to end users; access to the emergency services provided by local government or other public safety organization, such as 911 and enhanced 911, to the extent the local government in an eligible carrier's service area has implemented 911 or enhanced 911 systems; and toll limitation services to qualifying low-income consumers. Section 54.405(a) of the FCC's rules require an ETC to offer lifeline service "as defined in § 54.401, to qualifying low-income consumers." Section 54.401(a)(2) defines lifeline service to include "voice telephony service or broadband Internet access service as defined in § 54.400." "Broadband internet access service" is defined to include "the capability to transmit data to and receive data by wire or radio from all or substantially all Internet endpoints, including any capabilities that are incidental to

and enable the operation of the communications service, but excluding dial-up service." 47 C.F.R. § 54.400(l). Read together, these regulations require an ETC to offer subsidized Lifeline and voice and broadband services, including a standalone voice service offering to qualifying low-income consumers within its proposed ETC designation area. Colquitt asserts that it meets all the requirements of the FCC for designation as an ETC for voice and broadband services.

Colquitt committed to comply with the Commission's rules on eligible telecommunications carriers, Rule 515-12-1-.35: Eligible Telecommunications Carriers.

On October 29, 2025, at the request of Staff, Colquitt filed supplemental materials in support of its Application.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommended that the Commission designate Colquitt as an ETC in order to receive Rural Digital Opportunity Fund support for voice and broadband services in the census blocks shown in Attachment 1. Staff further recommended that Colquitt's ETC designation be conditioned upon FCC approval of Point Broadband's and Colquitt's application for reassignment of the census blocks from Point Broadband to Colquitt.

Commission Decision

The Commission finds the Staff's recommendation reasonable and hereby adopts the Staff's recommendation for the reasons stated therein.

* * * * *

WHEREFORE, it is

ORDERED, that Colquitt is hereby designated an ETC in order to receive Rural Digital Opportunity Fund support for voice and broadband services in the census blocks shown in Attachment 1 to this Order.

ORDERED FURTHER, that Colquitt's ETC designation is conditioned upon FCC approval of Point Broadband's and Colquitt's application for reassignment of the census blocks from Point Broadband to the City of Colquitt.

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 18th day of November 2025.

Sallie Tanner
Executive Secretary

11-18-25
DATE

Jason Shaw
Chairman

11-18-25
DATE

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