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DOCKET# 36946
DOCUMENT# 224718

Docket No. 36946

In Re: **Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Repository Docket**

ORDER RELINQUISHING AUTHORITY TO DESIGNATE WIRELESS LIFELINE-ONLY CARRIERS AS ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIERS

I. Background

Prior to 2008, the Georgia Public Service Commission declined to assert jurisdiction to designate telecommunications carriers other than traditional wireline local exchange carriers as eligible telecommunications carriers ("ETCs"). However, on May 21, 2008, the Commission asserted the authority to designate Tracfone Wireless, Inc., a wireless Lifeline-only carrier, as an ETC. Since then, the Commission has designated numerous wireless and voice over internet protocol carriers as ETCs.

II. Staff Recommendation

Georgia consumers seeking "free" wireless service through the Lifeline program currently have 17 different carriers to choose from. Staff concludes that the market for no cost Lifeline-supported wireless service is saturated. Therefore, Staff recommends that the Commission decline to assert authority to designate wireless Lifeline-only ETCs going forward. Should the Commission approve Staff's recommendation, the authority to designate wireless Lifeline-only ETCs would revert to the Federal Communications Commission unless and until the Commission reasserts authority. Under Staff's recommendation, the Commission would retain authority to designate all other types of ETCs.

III. Commission Decision

The Commission adopts Staff's recommendation for the reasons stated therein.

* * * * *

WHEREFORE, it is

ORDERED, that the authority to designate wireless Lifeline-only carriers as eligible telecommunications carriers is hereby relinquished.

ORDERED FURTHER, that the Commission reserves the right to reassert its authority to designate wireless Lifeline-only carriers as eligible telecommunications carriers in the future.

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 2nd day of December 2025.

Sallie Tanner
Executive Secretary

12-4-25
DATE

Jason Shaw
Chairman

12-4-25
DATE