



Idaho Public Utilities Commission

P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0074

Brad Little, Governor

Edward Lodge, President

John R. Hammond, Jr., Commissioner

Dayn Hardie, Commissioner

Case No. VMU-T-25-01

Order No. 36904

Contact: Adam Rush

Office: (208) 334-0339

E-mail: adam.rush@puc.idaho.gov

NEWS RELEASE: Commission approves telecom utility's application to expand eligible telecommunications carrier service area.

BOISE (Jan. 14, 2026) – The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved an application submitted by Assurance Wireless USA, L.P. to expand its eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) service area. The approval will allow Assurance Wireless to offer communications services to additional low-income customers in Idaho.

Under the Federal Communications Act of 1934, a telecommunications carrier is eligible to receive federal support from the Universal Service Fund (USF) throughout the service area for which an ETC designation is granted. Assurance Wireless will use the federal support to fund Lifeline services. These are discounts on phone and Internet service for qualifying low-income customers and are intended to ensure the customers can connect to jobs, family and emergency services.

To qualify as an ETC, a telecommunications utility must meet requirements spelled out in federal and state law. The requirements include demonstrating technical ability, serving a specific area and meeting consumer protection and quality standards, among other items.

The Commission approved the utility's application on January 13, 2026.

Additional information is available at: puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7569.