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IDAHO PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

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**Before the  
IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

\_\_\_\_\_  
In the Matter of )  
)  
)

Application of Cable One VoIP LLC )  
for Designation as an Eligible )  
Telecommunications Carrier in the State of )  
Idaho to Receive Rural Digital Opportunity )  
Fund (Auction 904) Support for Voice and )  
Broadband Services and to Receive Federal )  
Lifeline Support )  
\_\_\_\_\_)

Case No. CAB-T-21-01 22-01

**REQUEST TO PARTIALLY RELINQUISH ETC DESIGNATION**

In accordance with 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4), Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) Rule 54.205, and Idaho statutes,<sup>1</sup> Cable One VoIP LLC d/b/a Sparklight (the “Company”), by its attorneys, respectfully submits this request to the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (the “Commission”) to relinquish portions of the Company’s eligible telecommunications carrier (“ETC”) designation. In support of this request for partial

<sup>1</sup> Idaho Stat. § 62-610D(4).

relinquishment, the Company states:

1. The Company is a Delaware limited liability company with a principal place of business located at 210 E. Earll Drive, Phoenix, Arizona 85012. The Company is a wholly owned subsidiary of Cable One, Inc. (“Cable One”), a publicly traded Delaware corporation (NYSE: CABO). Cable One and its subsidiaries provide cable/video, Internet access, broadband, and voice services in 24 states, including Idaho.

2. In January 2020, the FCC adopted the framework and rules for Phase I of the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (“RDOF”) auction (Auction 904) to connect millions of rural homes and small businesses to fixed high-speed broadband networks.<sup>2</sup> The Company’s parent Cable One participated in Auction 904 as a member of the Wisper-CABO 904 Consortium (the “Consortium”). On December 7, 2020, the FCC announced the results of Auction 904, and the Consortium was a winning bidder in numerous states, including Idaho. Pursuant to the FCC’s process for distributing winning bids among related entities, the Consortium assigned the Company as the entity to receive RDOF support for certain winning bids in the state of Idaho.

3. The FCC required the Company (and other RDOF winning bidders) to obtain high-cost ETC designation in a state as a condition for receiving RDOF funding in that state. On April 19, 2021, in Case No. CAB-T-21-01, the Commission designated the Company as an ETC in 57 census block groups in which the Company was deemed the winning bidder in Auction 904 as well as additional geographic areas in which the Company requested to be designated as an ETC for the provision of federal Lifeline services.

4. On July 26, 2021, the FCC provided the Company (and numerous other RDOF winning bidders) with a list of census blocks covered by the Company’s winning RDOF bids in

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<sup>2</sup> *Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, et al.*, 35 FCC Rcd 686 (2020) (“RDOF Order”).

which “concerns” had been raised that those areas “are already served by one or more service providers that offer 25/3 Mbps broadband service or otherwise raise significant concerns about wasteful spending, such as parking lots and international airports.”<sup>3</sup> The FCC Letter asked the Company and other RDOF winning bidders to review their bids based on “significant concerns about the best use of [the public’s] limited universal service funds.”<sup>4</sup>

5. In response to the FCC Letter, on August 16, 2021, the Company informed the FCC that it would no longer pursue RDOF support for certain census blocks identified in the FCC Letter based on the Company’s determination that those census blocks either contained no serviceable locations or already received broadband service at 25/3 Mbps or better. The Company also indicated it would further review its other RDOF winning bids to determine if the public interest would be served by relinquishing RDOF support for any of the Company’s other winning bids.

6. On August 24, 2021, the Company informed the FCC that it would no longer seek RDOF support in several additional census blocks, including some of those for which it received ETC designation in Idaho.<sup>5</sup> As a result, the Company will only receive RDOF funding in Idaho for 25 of the 57 census block groups for which it was originally designated.<sup>6</sup> The FCC has noted the Idaho census block groups for which the Company will not receive RDOF support.<sup>7</sup> Given

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<sup>3</sup> Letter from Michael Janson, FCC, to Cable One VoIP LLC (July 26, 2021) (“FCC Letter”), <https://us-fcc.app.box.com/s/lq4iqpjt8ukal4wve6hbrkbs5473kpcw/file/838638500240>.

<sup>4</sup> FCC Letter at n.4.

<sup>5</sup> AU Docket No. 20-34, *et al.*, Petition for Waiver (filed Aug. 24, 2021), <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/search/search-filings/filing/108240356730305>; AU Docket No. 20-34, *et al.*, Amended Petition for Waiver (filed May 12, 2022), <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/search/search-filings/filing/105111580221676>.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.fcc.gov/document/auction-904-10th-authorization-public-notice>.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.fcc.gov/document/sixth-auction-904-ready-authorize-public-notice>; <https://www.fcc.gov/document/auction-904-9th-ready-authorize-public-notice>; *see also* Census Blocks Covered by Auction 904 Defaults (updated 6/14/22), <https://www.fcc.gov/auction/904/round-results>.



the substantial reduction in the Company's RDOF service territory in Idaho, the Company has determined it no longer has a need for Lifeline-only ETC authority in non-RDOF areas.

7. Accordingly, the Company files the instant request to partially relinquish its ETC designation for RDOF. The Company will retain its RDOF ETC designation for 25 census block groups.<sup>8</sup> The Company also seeks to relinquish the additional Lifeline ETC designation it received for non-RDOF areas.

8. Federal law provides an objective standard for ETC relinquishment: a state commission "shall permit" an ETC to relinquish its ETC designation "in any area" so long as that area is served by more than one ETC.<sup>9</sup> FCC Rule 54.205 requires an ETC to "give advance notice to the state commission of such relinquishment."<sup>10</sup> Idaho law similarly states the Commission "shall permit" an ETC to relinquish its ETC designation for an area served by more than one ETC upon no less than 30 days' notice to the Commission.<sup>11</sup> The Company meets the established standard for ETC relinquishment.

9. To the Company's knowledge, there are numerous other ETCs operating in the geographic areas for which the Company seeks relinquishment, including wireless ETCs and incumbent local exchange carriers ("ILECs"), as shown in **Exhibit 1**.

10. No consumer will be impacted by the Company's request to partially relinquish its ETC designation in Idaho because the Company does not serve any customers pursuant to its ETC designation. Thus, no customer notice is required in connection with the partial relinquishment.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.fcc.gov/document/auction-904-10th-authorization-public-notice>.

<sup>9</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4); 47 C.F.R. § 54.205.

<sup>10</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 54.205(a).

<sup>11</sup> Idaho Stat. § 62-610D(4).

11. Finally, there will be no discontinuance of service associated with the partial relinquishment of the Company's ETC designation because the Company does not currently serve any customers in Idaho.

12. Commission rules require an ETC applicant seeking designation for "any part of tribal lands" to provide a copy of its application to the affected tribal government or tribal regulatory authority, as applicable.<sup>12</sup> A portion of one census block group in the Company's RDOF area (census block group 160059400001 in Bannock County) overlaps with the Fort Hall Reservation on which the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes are located. The Company is retaining ETC designation for this census block group, and some of the locations within that census block group may be located on tribal land. Further, some of the non-RDOF Lifeline-only service areas to be relinquished overlap with the Fort Hall Reservation. The Company provided a copy of its original Application for ETC designation to the Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Attorney's Office, and certifies it will provide a copy of this Request to the Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Attorney's Office via certified U.S. Mail and electronic mail within one (1) business day of this Request being filed with the Commission.

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<sup>12</sup> Case No. WST-T-05-1, *The Application of WWC Holding Co., Inc. dba Cellular-One Seeking Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier that may Receive Federal Universal Service Support*, Order No. 29841 (Aug. 4, 2005) ("ETC Order").

**CONCLUSION**

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, the Company respectfully requests that the Commission grant this request and issue an order confirming the Company's partial relinquishment of its RDOF ETC designation and relinquishment of its Lifeline ETC designation in non-RDOF areas.

Dated: August 1, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

**CABLE ONE VOIP LLC D/B/A  
SPARKLIGHT**



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Its Attorneys

### **EXHIBIT 1**

The Company seeks to relinquish ETC designation in the following areas. Other known ETCs in the area also are listed, which were determined using the “Companies Near Me” search function available on the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) website.

#### **RDOF areas to be relinquished**

<b>County</b>	<b>Census Block Group</b>	<b>Located Near</b>	<b>Other ETCs</b>
Ada	160010001002	Boise	CenturyLink, RTI, Q Link Wireless, Access Wireless, Safelink Wireless, Assurance Wireless
Ada	160010001003	Boise	See above
Ada	160010002023	Boise	See above
Ada	160010008051	Boise	See above
Ada	160010009001	Boise	See above
Ada	160010009004	Boise	See above
Ada	160010010002	Boise	See above
Ada	160010021001	Boise	See above
Ada	160010023103	Boise	See above
Ada	160010102012	Eagle	See above
Ada	160010102251	Boise	See above
Ada	160010103211	Meridian	CenturyLink, Safelink Wireless, Access Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Assurance Wireless
Ada	160010103311	Meridian	See above
Ada	160010103321	Meridian	See above
Ada	160010103351	Meridian	See above
Bannock	160050003001	Chubbuck	CenturyLink, AT&T Mobility, Safelink Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Access Wireless, Syringa Wireless
Bannock	160050003003	Chubbuck	See above
Bannock	160050004001	Chubbuck	See above
Bannock	160050007001	Pocatello	CenturyLink, AT&T Mobility, Safelink Wireless, Syringa Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Access Wireless
Bannock	160050007002	Pocatello	See above
Bannock	160050008001	Pocatello	See above
Bannock	160050010003	Pocatello	See above



Bannock	160050011021	Pocatello	See above
Bannock	160050011022	Pocatello	See above
Bannock	160050014001	Pocatello	See above
Bannock	160050015001	Pocatello	See above
Bannock	160050015002	Pocatello	See above
Bannock	160050016011	Pocatello	See above
Bannock	160050016012	Pocatello	See above
Bannock	160050016032	Pocatello	See above
Nez Perce	160699604004	Lewiston	CenturyLink, Inland Cellular, Q Link Wireless, Access Wireless, Safelink Wireless
Payette	160759604003	New Plymouth	Farmers Mutual Telephone Company, CenturyLink, Q Link Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Access Wireless

**Additional Lifeline-only/non-RDOF areas to be relinquished**

<b>Franchise Area</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Other ETCs</b>
Garden	Ada	CenturyLink, Safelink Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Access Wireless, Assurance Wireless
Boise	Ada	CenturyLink, RTI, Q Link Wireless, Access Wireless, Safelink Wireless, Assurance Wireless
Ada	Ada	CenturyLink, RTI, Q Link Wireless, Access Wireless, Safelink Wireless, Assurance Wireless
Shelley	Bingham	CenturyLink, Assurance Wireless, Syringa Wireless, Access Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Safelink Wireless
Firth	Bingham	CenturyLink, Q Link Wireless, Safelink Wireless, Syringa Wireless, Access Wireless
Bingham	Bingham	CenturyLink, Assurance Wireless, Safelink Wireless, Access Wireless, Syringa Wireless, Q Link Wireless
Iona	Bonneville	CenturyLink, Q Link Wireless, Syringa Wireless, Safelink Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Access Wireless
Basalt	Bingham	CenturyLink, Syringa Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Access Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Safelink Wireless
Blackfoot	Bingham	CenturyLink, Assurance Wireless, Safelink Wireless, Access Wireless, Syringa Wireless, Q Link Wireless
Bonneville	Bonneville	CenturyLink, Safelink Wireless, Syringa Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Access Wireless, AT&T Mobility
Idaho Falls	Bonneville	CenturyLink, Safelink Wireless, Syringa Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Access Wireless, AT&T Mobility



Ririe	Bonneville	CenturyLink, Access Wireless, Syringa Wireless, Safelink Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Assurance Wireless
Ucon	Bonneville	CenturyLink, Access Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Syringa Wireless, Safelink Wireless, Q Link Wireless
Ammon	Bonneville	CenturyLink, Syringa Wireless, Safelink Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Access Wireless, AT&T Mobility
St. Anthony	Fremont	Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, Fremont Telecom Co., Q Link Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Syringa Wireless, Access Wireless, Safelink Wireless
Fremont	Fremont	Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, Fremont Telecom Co., Q Link Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Syringa Wireless, Access Wireless, Safelink Wireless
Teton	Fremont	CenturyLink, Fremont Telecom Co., Access Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Q Link Wireless
Rigby	Jefferson	CenturyLink, Assurance Wireless, Access Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Syringa Wireless, Safelink Wireless
Ririe	Jefferson	CenturyLink, Access Wireless, Syringa Wireless, Safelink Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Assurance Wireless
Sugar City	Madison	Fremont Telecom Co., CenturyLink, Access Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Syringa Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Safelink Wireless
Rexburg	Madison	CenturyLink, Assurance Wireless, Syringa Wireless, Access Wireless, Safelink Wireless, Q Link Wireless
Madison	Madison	CenturyLink, Assurance Wireless, Syringa Wireless, Access Wireless, Safelink Wireless, Q Link Wireless
Rockford	Bingham	CenturyLink, Safelink Wireless, Syringa Wireless, Access Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Assurance Wireless
Lewiston	Nez Perce	CenturyLink, Inland Cellular, Q Link Wireless, Access Wireless, Safelink Wireless
Nez Perce	Nez Perce	CenturyLink, Inland Cellular, Q Link Wireless, Access Wireless, Safelink Wireless
Chubbuck	Bannock	CenturyLink, AT&T Mobility, Safelink Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Access Wireless, Syringa Wireless
Pocatello	Bannock	CenturyLink, AT&T Mobility, Safelink Wireless, Syringa Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Access Wireless
Inkom	Bannock	CenturyLink, Safelink Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Syringa Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Access Wireless
Bannock	Bannock	CenturyLink, AT&T Mobility, Safelink Wireless, Syringa Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Access Wireless

American Falls	Power	CenturyLink, Q Link Wireless, Access Wireless, Syringa Wireless, Safelink Wireless
Salmon	Lemhi	CenturyLink, Custer Telephone Cooperative, AT&T Mobility, Safelink Wireless
Burley	Cassia	Project Mutual Telephone Cooperative, CenturyLink, Q Link wireless, Syringa Wireless, Safelink Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Access Wireless
Burley	Minidoka	Project Mutual Telephone Cooperative, CenturyLink, Q Link wireless, Syringa Wireless, Safelink Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Access Wireless
Hagerman	Gooding	CenturyLink, Syringa Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Access Wireless, Q Link Wireless
Wendell	Gooding	CenturyLink, Q Link Wireless, Access Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Syringa Wireless
Gooding	Gooding	CenturyLink, Safelink Wireless, Access Wireless, Syringa Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Assurance Wireless
Jerome	Jerome	CenturyLink, Access Wireless, Syringa Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Safelink Wireless, AT&T Mobility, Assurance Wireless
Shoshone	Lincoln	CenturyLink, Safelink Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Syringa Wireless, Access Wireless, Assurance Wireless
Heyburn	Minidoka	Filer Mutual Telephone Company, CenturyLink, Syringa Wireless, Access Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Safelink Wireless
Minidoka	Minidoka	Project Mutual Telephone Cooperative, Q Link Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Safelink Wireless, Access Wireless, Syringa Wireless
Rupert	Minidoka	Project Mutual Telephone Cooperative, Q Link Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Safelink Wireless, Access Wireless, Syringa Wireless
Paul	Minidoka	CenturyLink, Project Mutual Telephone Cooperative, Syringa Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Access Wireless, Safelink Wireless, Q Link Wireless
Kimberly	Twin Falls	CenturyLink, Q Link Wireless, Safelink Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Access Wireless, Syringa Wireless
Filer	Twin Falls	CenturyLink, Safelink Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Access Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Syringa Wireless
Hansen	Twin Falls	CenturyLink, Assurance Wireless, Safelink Wireless, Syringa Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Access Wireless



Twin Falls	Twin Falls	Filer Mutual Telephone Company, CenturyLink, Assurance Wireless, Syringa Wireless, AT&T Mobility, Safelink Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Access Wireless
Buhl	Twin Falls	CenturyLink, Assurance Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Syringa Wireless, Access Wireless, Safelink Wireless
Meridian	Ada	CenturyLink, Safelink Wireless, Access Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Assurance Wireless
Star	Ada	CenturyLink, Safelink Wireless, Access Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Q Link Wireless
Kuna	Ada	CenturyLink, Q Link Wireless, Access Wireless, Safelink Wireless, Assurance Wireless
Horseshoe Bend	Boise	Ziply Fiber, Q Link Wireless, Assurance Wireless
Canyon	Canyon	CenturyLink, Q Link Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Safelink Wireless, Access Wireless
Greenleaf	Canyon	CenturyLink, Safelink Wireless, Access Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Assurance Wireless
Nampa	Canyon	CenturyLink, Safelink Wireless, Access Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Assurance Wireless
Notus	Canyon	CenturyLink, Access Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Safelink Wireless
Parma	Canyon	Ziply Fiber, Q Link Wireless, Access Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Safelink Wireless
Middleton	Canyon	CenturyLink, Access Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Safelink Wireless, Q Link Wireless
Purple Sage	Canyon	CenturyLink, Q Link Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Safelink Wireless, Access Wireless
Wilder	Canyon	Ziply Fiber, Safelink Wireless, Access Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Q Link Wireless
Caldwell	Canyon	CenturyLink, Q Link Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Safelink Wireless, Access Wireless
Cassia	Cassia	Project Mutual Telephone Cooperative, CenturyLink, Q Link wireless, Syringa Wireless, Safelink Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Access Wireless
Emmett	Gem	Ziply Fiber, CenturyLink, Access Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Safelink Wireless, Assurance Wireless
Owyhee	Owyhee	Ziply Fiber, Access Wireless, Safelink Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Assurance Wireless
Fruitland	Payette	Farmers Mutual Telephone Company, CenturyLink, Safelink Wireless, Access Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Q Link Wireless
Payette	Payette	CenturyLink, Assurance Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Safelink Wireless, Access Wireless
Homedale	Owyhee	Ziply Fiber, Access Wireless, Safelink Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Assurance Wireless



Payette	Payette	Farmers Mutual Telephone Cooperative, CenturyLink, Assurance Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Access Wireless, Safelink Wireless
New Plymouth	Payette	Farmers Mutual Telephone Company, CenturyLink, Q Link Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Access Wireless
Marsing	Owyhee	Ziply Fiber, Access Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Safelink Wireless
Eagle	Ada	CenturyLink, Q Link Wireless, Safelink Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Access Wireless
New Meadows	Adams	Ziply Fiber, Q Link Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Access Wireless
Gem	Gem	Ziply Fiber, CenturyLink, Access Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Safelink Wireless, Assurance Wireless
Cascade	Valley	Ziply Fiber, Q Link Wireless, Safelink Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Access Wireless
Donnelly	Valley	Ziply Fiber, Q Link Wireless, Access Wireless, Assurance Wireless, Safelink Wireless
McCall	Valley	Ziply Fiber, Assurance Wireless, Q Link Wireless, Safelink Wireless