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IDAHO PUBLIC
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BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF

CENTURYLINK COMMUNICATIONS, LLC
PETITION FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER (ETC)

CASE NO. QCC-T-21-01

**PETITION OF CENTURYLINK
COMMUNICATIONS, LLC
FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER**

- 1 Pursuant to Section 214(e)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (“Act”), as well as the rules of the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”),¹ and consistent with Idaho requirements for designation as a federal Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”),² CenturyLink Communications, LLC (“CCL” or “Petitioner”) hereby submits this Petition for designation as an ETC in selected census blocks outside areas where its affiliates currently are ETCs.³ CCL respectfully requests that the Commission issue an order designating CCL as an ETC in Idaho no later than June 1, 2021.⁴
- 2 CCL’s ultimate parent, Lumen Technologies, Inc. (f/k/a as CenturyLink, Inc.) (hereinafter “CenturyLink/Lumen”),⁵ was selected as a winning bidder in some of the census blocks available in Idaho under the FCC’s Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (hereinafter “RDOF”)

¹ 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(2). 47 C.F.R §§ 54.201 and 54.202.

² *In the Matter of the Application of WWC Holding Co., Inc. dba CellularOne® Seeking Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier That May Receive Federal Universal Service Support*, Case No. WST-T-05-1, Order No. 29841 (“ETC Requirements”). See also Idaho Statute § 62-610D.

³ Petitioner’s incumbent local exchange company (“ILEC”) affiliates, namely Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink, CenturyTel of Idaho d/b/a CenturyLink, and CenturyTel of the Gem State d/b/a CenturyLink (collectively, “CenturyLink ILECs”) are designated as ETCs in Idaho. As addressed more fully below, this Petition involves areas outside the service territory served by these ILEC affiliates of Petitioner.

⁴ This date is requested given the FCC’s date of June 7, 2021 for state commission action on ETC requests.

⁵ On September 14, 2020, CenturyLink, Inc., the ultimate parent of Petitioner announced the launch of its “Lumen” brand. Effective September 18, 2020, the stock of CenturyLink, Inc. began trading under the symbol “LUMN.” On January 22, 2021, CenturyLink, Inc. formally changed its name to Lumen Technologies, Inc. As a result, CenturyLink, Inc. is now referred to as “Lumen Technologies,” or simply “Lumen.”

and awarded in its Phase I Auction (Auction 904).⁶ CenturyLink/Lumen assigned the winning bids to Qwest Corporation in Idaho, which applied on behalf of its affiliates and itself for approval from the FCC. Many of those affiliates, the CenturyLink ILECs, are local exchange carriers and ETCs in Idaho, and many of the RDOF census blocks won by CenturyLink/Lumen in Idaho fall within their authorized service areas. Attached as Exhibit A is a map illustrating all areas in Idaho relevant to the CenturyLink/Lumen RDOF winning bids.⁷

3 Some of the RDOF Census Blocks won by CenturyLink/Lumen, however, fall outside of the authorized service areas for these ILEC affiliates. The 161 incremental RDOF Census Blocks (“Incremental CBs”) are listed in Exhibit B. While Petitioner is certificated in the Incremental CBs, it is not a designated ETC in Idaho in these areas. Accordingly, CCL files to obtain ETC designation for these Incremental CBs.⁸

4 Section 214(e)(2) of the Act authorizes the Commission to designate Petitioner as an ETC if it meets the requirements of 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1).

5 CCL is authorized to provide local exchange and interexchange services in Idaho pursuant to its CPCN granted by the Commission. Pursuant to statute and its Commission granted CPCN, CCL is authorized to serve in the Incremental CBs.

6 As addressed in more detail below and as certified in the attached affidavit, CCL meets

⁶ *Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase I Auction (Auction 904) Closes, Winning Bidders Announced*, AU Docket No. 20-34, Public Notice, 35 FCC Rcd 13888 DA No. 20-1422 (OEA/WCB rel. Dec. 7, 2020) (“*Auction 904 Results Notice*”). See, <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-20-1422A1.pdf>

⁷ The RDOF Census Blocks within the service territory of CenturyLink as denoted on Exhibit A are only for context and illustration purposes and are not subject to this Petition.

⁸ To the extent some of these incremental census blocks may fall both inside and outside the CenturyLink ILECs’ service areas, this Petition addresses solely the portion outside of the CenturyLink ILECs’ service areas. Similarly, if any of these incremental census blocks nominally include area inside the service area of an incumbent local exchange carrier subject to federal rate-of-return regulation, those areas were specifically excluded from the RDOF Auction and are not relevant here. *Rural Digital Opportunity Fund; Connect America Fund*, WC Docket Nos. 19-126, 10-90, Report and Order, FCC 20-5, 35 FCC Rcd 686 (2020) ¶ 12.

the requirements for ETC designation for purposes of the FCC's RDOF. CCL respectfully requests that the Commission designate it as an ETC in the Incremental CBs for the limited purpose of fulfilling obligations pursuant to the RDOF.

I. BACKGROUND

- 7 CCL is a Delaware limited liability company with principal offices located at 100 CenturyLink Drive, Monroe, Louisiana, 71203. CCL is an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of CenturyLink/Lumen. Lumen provides high-quality voice and data services to enterprise, government, wholesale, and carrier customers over its IP-based network through its wholly owned indirect subsidiaries, including the Petitioner.
- 8 In Idaho, CCL has been certified to provide local exchange and interexchange services pursuant to a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPCN") issued by the Commission.⁹
- 9 The FCC's RDOF program accelerates the deployment of high-speed fixed broadband service in America. Phase 1 of the RDOF program is being implemented with a focus on areas that are wholly unserved under the FCC's 25/3 Mbps standard for fixed broadband applicable to the RDOF Phase 1 recipients. The FCC has authorized RDOF support to companies, like CenturyLink/Lumen, that commit to enable and maintain voice and broadband service meeting the FCC's requirements to all locations (homes and small businesses) within the Incremental CBs for the life of the program.
- 10 In Idaho, CenturyLink/Lumen was the winner in the RDOF Auction for areas with funding of approximately \$1.165 million annually over 10 years.¹⁰ CenturyLink/Lumen

⁹ The IPUC issued CPCN No. 402 to CenturyLink Communications, LLC in Case No. QCC-T-04-01.

¹⁰ See, *Auction 904 Results Notice*, Attachment A: "Winning Bidders Summary" at page 6 of 30. The link for Attachment A is as follows: <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-20-1422A2.pdf>.

assigned those winning bids to Qwest Corporation, which has filed the required Long-Form Application with the FCC on behalf of itself and its affiliates.¹¹ If approved, RDOF funding will begin to be disbursed for these areas in January 2022.

11 Pursuant to Section 214(e)(2) of the Act, a “State commission shall on its own motion or upon request designate a common carrier that meets the requirements of paragraph (1) as an eligible telecommunications carrier for a service area designated by the State commission.”¹² Section 214(e)(1) of the Act in pertinent part provides:

A common carrier designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier . . . shall be eligible to receive universal service support in accordance with section 254 and shall, throughout the service area for which the designation is received –
(A) offer the services that are supported by the Federal universal service support mechanism under section 254(c), either using its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale of another carrier’s services (including the service offered by another eligible telecommunications carrier); and
(B) advertise the availability of such services and the charges therefore using media of general distribution.

II. PETITIONER MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS FOR ETC CERTIFICATION

12 CCL meets the requirements for ETC designation for purposes of the FCC’s RDOF program.

13 CCL is a common carrier, as defined under the Act,¹³ and plans to offer the services stipulated by RDOF in the Incremental CBs under section 254(c), either using its own facilities or a combination of CCL’s own facilities and resale of another carrier’s or affiliate’s facilities and services. As certified by the attached affidavit, CCL, together

¹¹ See generally, *FCC Form 683 Instructions*, OMB Control No. 3060-1256, “*Divide Winning Bids*” process.

¹² 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(2).

¹³ A “common carrier” is defined as “any person engaged as a common carrier for hire, in interstate or foreign communications by wire or radio[.]” 47 U.S.C. § 153(10).

with its ILEC affiliates who are already ETCs, also plans to advertise the availability of such services and the charges using media of general distribution.

14 Pursuant to Section 54.101 of the FCC's rules, eligible voice telephony services include voice grade access to the PSTN or its functional equivalent.¹⁴ For RDOF Phase I support recipients, the FCC also defines the supported service as qualifying voice service and conditions grant of funding on the offering of qualifying broadband service.

15 For RDOF purposes, Petitioner itself or through facilities and services of another carrier/affiliate, will provide voice service on a stand-alone basis in the Incremental CBs consistent with the FCC's high-cost universal service support rules applicable to it. Petitioner primarily will be provisioning voice telephony, where requested by a customer, using Voice-over-Internet Protocol ("VoIP") technology after the RDOF network has been deployed. Petitioner's telephony voice service will include access to emergency services (including 911 or E911 where available) in the locations listed in Exhibit B.¹⁵

16 Petitioner will offer Lifeline discounts to qualifying low-income consumers in the Incremental CBs consistent with the FCC's Lifeline rules.¹⁶ Petitioner, through its affiliates, has substantial experience in providing Lifeline voice services to low-income consumers. Petitioner will rely upon teams at Lumen who have familiarity with these programs.

¹⁴ 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(a).

¹⁵ Petitioner and its affiliates respectfully reserve all rights, claims and defenses relating to non-jurisdictional technologies that may be used to provision services under the RDOF Auction. Any reference to or use of such technologies herein should not be construed as a waiver of any rights, claims, and defenses that may be asserted in the future.

¹⁶ *See*, 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.101(c), 54.805-54.806.

- 17 As certified in the attached Affidavit, Petitioner itself or in conjunction with an affiliate, will advertise the availability of its Lifeline service offerings in the Incremental CBs using media reasonably designed to reach those likely to qualify for the service(s).
- 18 As for broadband service, RDOF support will enable the extension of gigabit per second broadband Internet access services to customers within the boundaries of the Incremental CBs identified on Exhibit B.
- 19 Petitioner meets all applicable federal and state requirements for designation as an ETC in Idaho, including 47 U.S.C. § 214(e), 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.201 *et seq.*
- 20 Approval of CCL's request for ETC designation in the Incremental CBs will allow CCL, either directly or through its affiliates, to bring voice and broadband Internet access services to consumers in the Incremental CBs, thus advancing the goals of universal service under the FCC's RDOF program.
- 21 Designating CCL as an ETC will permit it to use RDOF funding for its intended purpose in the Incremental CBs, directly advancing the goals of the RDOF program and universal service. For the reasons set forth herein, granting ETC status to CCL for the Incremental CBs, as identified in Exhibit B, is in the public interest.

III. PETITIONER MEETS THE STATE REQUIREMENTS FOR ETC DESIGNATION

- 22 IPUC Order No. 29841 requires that an ETC certify that it is compliant with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules; and ETCs must demonstrate the ability to remain functional in emergencies. Petitioner will meet service quality standards and consumer protection rules, to the extent they are applicable, of the Federal Communications Commission and the IPUC as set forth in Commission Order No.

29841. Furthermore, Petitioner's services will remain functional in emergencies as set forth in Commission Order No. 29841 and in 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(2).

IV. COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

23 Pleadings, orders, notices or other correspondence and communications regarding this Petition should be provided to:

William Hendricks
Associate General Counsel
CenturyLink Communications, LLC
902 Wasco St, Floor 1
Hood River, OR 97031
Phone: (541) 387-9439
Email: tre.hendricks@centurylink.com

And:

Jennifer Somers
Director State Legislative Affairs
250 E 200 S, Room 1000
Salt Lake City, UT 84111
Telephone: (801) 209-0639
E-mail: jennifer.somers@centurylink.com

V. REQUESTED RELIEF AND TIMING

24 CenturyLink/Lumen must demonstrate to the FCC that it or an affiliate has been designated as an ETC in each of the census blocks where CenturyLink/Lumen was the winning bidder in the RDOF Auction. The FCC's deadline for such documentation is June 7, 2021.²³

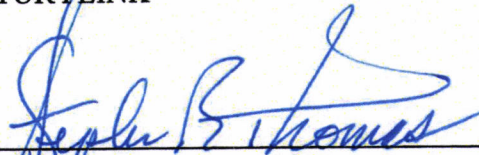
25 Accordingly, CCL respectfully requests that the Commission issue an order approving this Petition by no later than June 1, 2021.

VI. CONCLUSION

26 Petitioner CCL therefore respectfully requests that the Commission designate CCL as an ETC in the Incremental CBs identified in Exhibit B no later than June 1, 2021 and order such other relief as may be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted this 12th day of March, 2021.

CENTURYLINK



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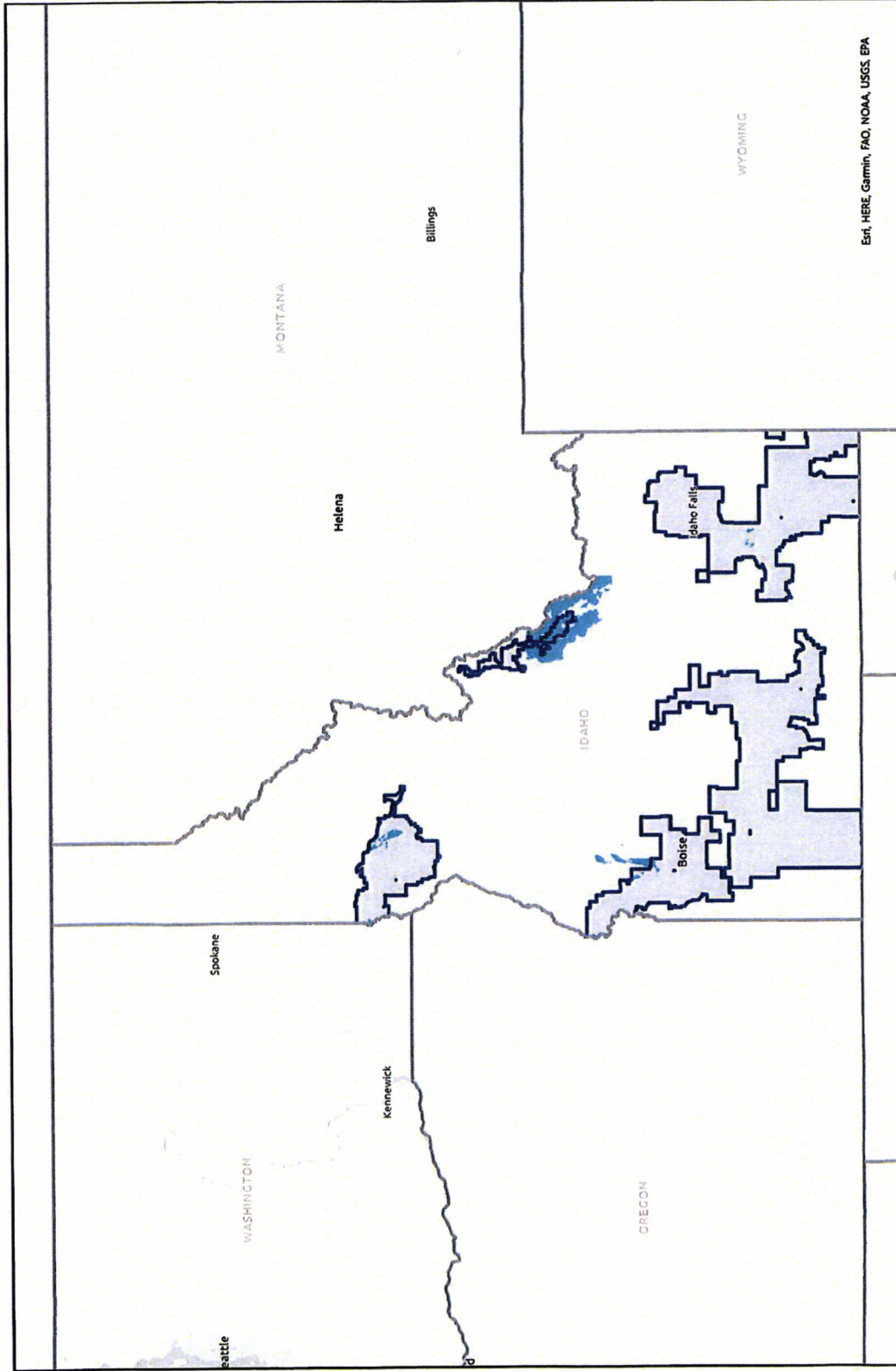
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LUMEN® Idaho Lumen Won RDOF Areas

Exhibit A

Support (10y) Locations
\$11,650,567.20 2,576



Winning Bidder Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) information: RDOF Source: <https://auctiondata.fcc.gov/public/projects/auction904>. Portions of the map data are ©2006-2020 TomTom and portions of the map data are ©2020 Lumen.

List of CB where CTL, Inc. was assigned RDOF auction support and requires ETC status -ID				
1	160459601001049	160459601001482	160459601001726	160599703001441
2	160459601001056	160459601001483	160459601001736	160599703001445
3	160459601001057	160459601001484	160459601001737	160599703001453
4	160459601001059	160459601001491	160459601001790	160599703001454
5	160459601001063	160459601001492	160459601001791	160599703001482
6	160459601001186	160459601001493	160459601001792	160599703001489
7	160459601001187	160459601001494	160459601001798	160599703001533
8	160459601001214	160459601001495	160459601001805	160599703001546
9	160459601001222	160459601001496	160459601001827	160599703001554
10	160459601001223	160459601001497	160499400003026	160599703001556
11	160459601001226	160459601001501	160599703001006	160599703001557
12	160459601001228	160459601001502	160599703001028	160599703001658
13	160459601001231	160459601001503	160599703001032	160599703001717
14	160459601001232	160459601001505	160599703001042	160599703001721
15	160459601001234	160459601001506	160599703001045	160599703001829
16	160459601001235	160459601001507	160599703001066	160599703001871
17	160459601001238	160459601001510	160599703001074	160599703001885
18	160459601001239	160459601001512	160599703001075	160599703001960
19	160459601001275	160459601001513	160599703001076	160599703001962
20	160459601001278	160459601001515	160599703001098	160599703001979
21	160459601001279	160459601001517	160599703001105	160599703001981
22	160459601001280	160459601001519	160599703001106	160619400012011
23	160459601001281	160459601001520	160599703001113	160619400012030
24	160459601001289	160459601001521	160599703001114	160619400012033
25	160459601001290	160459601001523	160599703001121	160619400012041
26	160459601001292	160459601001525	160599703001122	160619400012051
27	160459601001303	160459601001529	160599703001136	
28	160459601001304	160459601001531	160599703001139	Total = 161
29	160459601001306	160459601001533	160599703001147	
30	160459601001319	160459601001536	160599703001154	
31	160459601001429	160459601001541	160599703001164	
32	160459601001431	160459601001542	160599703001175	
33	160459601001445	160459601001544	160599703001196	
34	160459601001447	160459601001547	160599703001237	
35	160459601001457	160459601001553	160599703001257	
36	160459601001460	160459601001557	160599703001333	
37	160459601001465	160459601001559	160599703001338	
38	160459601001468	160459601001560	160599703001377	
39	160459601001469	160459601001563	160599703001381	
40	160459601001470	160459601001564	160599703001396	
41	160459601001471	160459601001569	160599703001408	
42	160459601001473	160459601001571	160599703001418	
43	160459601001475	160459601001574	160599703001420	
44	160459601001476	160459601001578	160599703001430	
45	160459601001477	160459601001722	160599703001440	

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF LOUISIANA)
)
PARRISH OF OUACHITA)

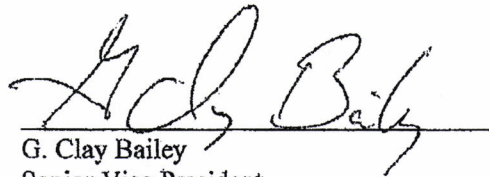
I, G. Clay Bailey, being of lawful age and duly sworn, on my oath state that I am Senior Vice President, Public Policy and Government Affairs, of Lumen Technologies, Inc., the ultimate parent of Petitioner, CenturyLink Communications, LLC (“CCL”), that I am authorized to execute this affidavit on behalf of CCL, and that the facts set forth in this affidavit and the accompanying Petition of CenturyLink Communications, LLC for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier are true to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief. This affidavit is submitted to the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (“IPUC”) to support designation of CCL as an eligible telecommunications carrier (“ETC”) in the State of Idaho in order to receive federal universal service funds pursuant to Section 214(e) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C § 214(3)(2), and as awarded under the Federal Communication Commission (“FCC”) Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (“RDOF”) auction and program.

1. CCL seeks ETC designation for the 161 RDOF supported areas of Idaho (the incremental RDOF Census Blocks) as identified in Exhibit B to CCL’s Petition.
2. As set forth in the pleading, CCL and its affiliates will:
 - a) Comply with all requirements imposed by the FCC as part of the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (“RDOF”) program, including those in 47 C.F.R. §54.101(a).
 - b) Advertise the availability of the services described in subsection (a) above for the incremental RDOF Census Blocks using media of general distribution, which may

include television, newspaper, magazine, radio, internet, electronic mail, direct mailings, public exhibits and displays, and bill inserts.

- c) Comply with requirements set forth in Commission Order No. 29841, the IPUC ETC Requirements Order, associated with the petition for ETC status for the incremental RDOF Census Blocks.

I certify that the foregoing is true and correct.



G. Clay Bailey
Senior Vice President,
Public Policy and Government Affairs
Lumen Technologies, Inc.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9th day of March 2021.

Wanita Womack Jones 65607
Signature of Notary Public

Wanita Womack Jones
Printed Name

Commission Expiration: at Death

[SEAL]

