

**BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

<b>IN THE MATTER OF STARLINK</b>	)	<b>CASE NO. SSL-T-24-01</b>
<b>SERVICES, LLC’S REQUEST TO</b>	)	
<b>RELINQUISH ITS ELIGIBLE</b>	)	<b>ORDER NO. 36206</b>
<b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER</b>	)	
<b>DESIGNATION</b>	)	
	)	

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On February 23, 2024, Starlink Services, LLC (“Starlink” or “Company”) filed a request (“Request”) with the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) to relinquish its designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”), which was authorized by the Commission in Order No. 35003.

The Company represented that it applied for the initial authorization as a requirement of its winning bids in the Federal Communications Commission’s (“FCC”) Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (“RDOF”). Request at 1. The Company stated that the scope of the authorization was limited to the specific census blocks in which the Company was to receive RDOF support. *Id.* The Company represented that the Wireline Competition Bureau (“Bureau”) has since denied the Company’s RDOF “Long Form” application. *Id.* As a result, the Company indicated that it will not receive any RDOF support to provide service in the state, and based on those changes in circumstances since the authorization was applied for and granted, the Company requested to relinquish the authorization. *Id.* at 1-2.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

Commission Staff (“Staff”) reviewed the Company’s Application and examined the requirements under the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, the FCC’s regulations, and the RDOF requirements. Based on its review, Staff believed that the Company fulfilled the statutory requirements to relinquish its ETC designation in Idaho.

Staff noted that the Company’s area of coverage was located within the certificated territories of cooperative telephone companies such as Custer Telephone Cooperative, Inc., the Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative as well as the territories of certain affiliates of Frontier Communications Corp. and Lumen Technologies, Inc. f/k/a CenturyLink, and that the Company did not have any current customers. Therefore, Staff believed that the Company fulfilled the requirements necessary to relinquish its ETC designation.

## COMMISSION FINDINGS AND DECISION

The Commission has authority to grant ETC designation to a telecommunications carrier under federal and state law. 47 U.S.C. § 214(e); *Idaho Code* §§ 62-610D, 62-615(1). The Commission may also “permit an . . . [ETC] . . . to relinquish its designation as such a carrier in any area served by more than one (1) . . . [ETC,] . . .” provided such carrier provides appropriate notice to the Commission. *Idaho Code* § 62-610D(4). Before the Commission permits an ETC to cease providing universal service, the Commission requires a showing that all customers served by the relinquishing carrier will continue to be served.

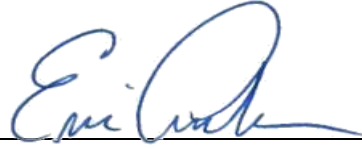
The Commission has reviewed the record in this case, including the Application and all comments. The Commission finds that the original purpose for the Company obtaining ETC status has been negated and relinquishment of the ETC is appropriate. The Commission finds that, because the Company serves no customers in the designated areas, and those areas are already served by other ETCs, the Company has no remaining obligations. The Commission also finds that the Company properly notified the Commission of its intent to relinquish its ETC designation.

## ORDER

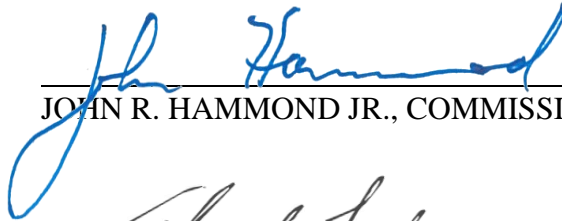
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Company’s request to relinquish its designation as an ETC in Idaho is granted.

THIS IS A FINAL ORDER. Any person interested in this Order may petition for reconsideration within twenty-one (21) days of the service date upon this Order regarding any matter decided in this Order. Within seven (7) days after any person has petitioned for reconsideration, any other person may cross-petition for reconsideration. *Idaho Code* §§ 61-626 and 62-619.

DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of June 2024.



ERIC ANDERSON, PRESIDENT



JOHN R. HAMMOND JR., COMMISSIONER



EDWARD LODGE, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Monica Barrios-Sanchez  
Commission Secretary

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