

**BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**IN THE MATTER OF CEBRIDGE** ) **CASE NO. SUD-T-23-01**  
**TELECOM ID, LLC’S APPLICATION FOR** )  
**RELINQUISHMENT OF ELIGIBLE** ) **ORDER NO. 35945**  
**TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER** )  
**DESIGNATION** )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

On June 20, 2023, Cebriidge Telecom ID, LLC d/b/a Optimum f/k/a Suddenlink Communications (“Company”) applied to the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) seeking to relinquish its Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”) designation.

On July 25, 2023, the Commission issued a Notice of Application and set public comment and Company reply deadlines. Order No. 35857. Commission Staff (“Staff”) submitted the only comments in this case.

With this Order, the Commission grants the Company’s request.

**BACKGROUND**

The Company stated that on February 7, 2020, the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) created a Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (“RDOF”) of \$20.4 billion. Service providers could compete for funds from the RDOF to provide voice and broadband services to unserved locations where providing service would be expensive. The Company explained that on December 7, 2020, it was informed by the FCC that it had been awarded \$10,556.00 to offer broadband service within its 19 proposed census blocks within the State of Idaho.

The Company noted that the FCC required applicants for RDOF funding to be designated as an ETC by the states within their census blocks. The Company was accordingly granted ETC status within the State of Idaho relative to its census blocks in Case No. SUD-T-21-01.

**THE APPLICATION**

The Company noted the FCC updated its qualifications for receipt of funding from the RDOF. Following this update, the Company determined that its 19 census blocks in Idaho were not eligible for RDOF funding and informed the FCC accordingly.

The Company cited 47 C.F.R. § 54.205 and stated that the FCC allows for ETC relinquishment if the service area already has more than one ETC and the Commission is given at least 30 days’ notice. *See Idaho Code* § 62-610D(4).

The Company explained that Idaho residents in the corresponding census blocks will not be harmed because the Company serves no customers in any of the 19 service areas—which are already serviced by other ETCs. The Company requested that the Commission allow it to relinquish its ETC status.

### **STAFF COMMENTS**

Staff noted that the Company’s original reason for seeking ETC status has been negated. Staff reviewed the Company’s submitted materials and believed that the Company has complied with all federal and state requirements in relinquishing its ETC designation and recommended the Commission grant the Company’s request.

### **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); and *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 and considered the record in this case, including the Company’s Application and Staff’s Comments. The Commission finds that relinquishment of the ETC is appropriate as the original purpose for the Company obtaining ETC status has been negated. The Commission also finds that the Company properly notified the Commission of its intent to relinquish its ETC designation. The Commission further finds that, because the Company serves no customers in the designated areas (which are already served by other ETCs), the Company has no remaining obligations.

### **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 of 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.

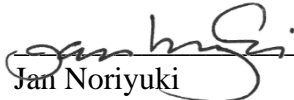
DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 4th day of October 2023.

  
ERIC ANDERSON, PRESIDENT

  
JOHN R. HAMMOND JR., COMMISSIONER

  
EDWARD LODGE, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

  
Jan Noriyuki  
Commission Secretary

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