

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF TRUCONNECT) CASE NO. TCC-T-24-01
COMMUNICATIONS, INC.’S)
APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION AS) NOTICE OF SUPPLEMENTAL
AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS) COMMENT AND REPLY
CARRIER) DEADLINES
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) **ORDER NO. 36284**
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On March 4, 2024, TruConnect Communications, Inc. (“Company”) applied to the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) for designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”) in the State of Idaho. The Company requested designation as an ETC for the sole purpose of providing Lifeline services. The Company asked that it be allowed to participate and receive reimbursement from the Idaho Telephone Service Assistance Program accordingly.

On June 20, 2024, the Commission issued a Notice of Application and set deadlines for public comments and the Company’s reply. Order No. 36227.

The Company submitted materials supplementing its Application on July 9, 2024.

Staff submitted comments on July 11, 2024. Staff argued that the Company’s request for ETC status should be denied. Among other things, Staff argued that the Company failed to meet the necessary requirements for an ETC to remain functional in an emergency and promote the public interest.

The Company submitted Reply Comments on July 18, 2024. The Company argued that the items of non-compliance referred to by Staff were not actually requirements for obtaining ETC status. Therefore, the Company argued it should not be denied ETC status for not abiding by these non-mandatory items.

At the Commission’s July 30, 2024, decision meeting, Staff recommended the Commission issue a Notice of Supplemental Comment and Reply Deadlines. Staff stood by its recommendation but opined that adding additional documentation and analysis to the record would place the Commission in the best position to make a fully informed decision. Staff recommended the Commission establish an August 16, 2024, Staff supplemental comment deadline and an August

30, 2024, Company supplemental reply comment deadline to allow for the record to be more fully developed.

The Commission now issues this Notice of Supplemental Comment and Reply Deadlines.

COMMISSION DECISION

Having reviewed Staff's request to add to the record, we believe that it is reasonable to grant the parties additional time to file supplemental comments and supplemental reply comments. This finding is based on Staff's representation that the record would be more fully developed if the Commission allowed another round of comments in this case. We agree that it is important to have a fully developed record to inform our decisions and find Staff's suggestion provides the greatest opportunity for a complete record. Accordingly, we find that it is reasonable to grant Staff until August 16, 2024, to file its supplemental comments and the Company until August 30, 2024, to file its supplemental reply.


ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Commission now issues a Notice of Supplemental Comment and Reply Deadlines establishing an August 16, 2024, Staff supplemental comment deadline and an August 30, 2024, Company supplemental reply comment deadline.

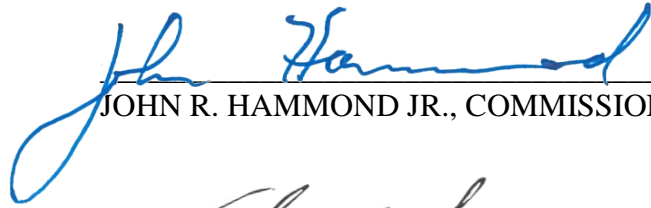
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that parties comply with Order No. 35375, issued April 21, 2022. Generally, all pleadings should be filed with the Commission electronically and will be deemed timely filed when received by the Commission Secretary. *See* Rule 14.02. Service between parties should continue to be accomplished electronically when possible. However, voluminous discovery-related documents may be filed and served on CD-ROM or a USB flash drive.

THIS IS AN INTERLOCUTORY ORDER rather than a final and appealable order of the Commission. While the Commission may review, stay, or clarify an interlocutory order, the period of reconsideration will not begin until the Final Order is issued.

DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 8th day of August 2024.



ERIC ANDERSON, PRESIDENT

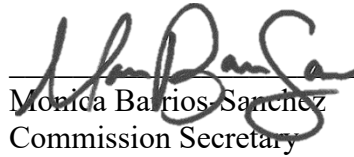


JOHN R. HAMMOND JR., COMMISSIONER



EDWARD LODGE, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Monica Barrios-Sanchez
Commission Secretary

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