

DECISION MEMORANDUM

**TO: COMMISSIONER KJELLANDER
COMMISSIONER REDFORD
COMMISSIONER SMITH
COMMISSION SECRETARY
COMMISSION STAFF
LEGAL**

**FROM: KARL KLEIN
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL**

DATE: FEBRUARY 27, 2014

SUBJECT: CUSTER TELEPHONE'S ETC APPLICATION, CASE NO. CTB-T-14-01

On January 6, 2014, Custer Telephone Broadband Services LLC (the "Company") applied to the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (the "Commission") for an Order designating it as an eligible telecommunications carrier ("ETC") that can participate in Lifeline and receive universal service fund, low-income support in the Salmon, Idaho exchange area (the "Designated Service Area"). Application at 1. The Company is owned by Custer Telephone Cooperative, Inc. and has its principal place of business in Challis, Idaho. It is a full-service wireline carrier that provides facilities-based, local exchange services. The Company says it meets the requirements to be an ETC under Section 214(e) of the federal Telecommunications Act (47 U.S.C. § 214(e)), the Federal Communications Commission's eligibility rules and orders (47 C.F.R. §§ 54.201, 54.202, and 54.405; and the Lifeline Reform Order, FCC-12-11), and the Commission's eligibility requirements as specified in Commission Order No. 29841. *Id.* at 1, 3-4. It says that the proposed Designated Service Area does not include areas served by rural telephone companies but is part of the service area of CenturyTel of Idaho, Inc. dba CenturyLink. *Id.* at 1-2, 4, and 7.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission process the Company's Application under Modified Procedure with a 21-day comment period.

COMMISSION DECISION

Does the Commission wish to process the Company's Application under Modified Procedure with a 21-day comment period?



Karl Klein
Deputy Attorney General