Southern Linc

January 31, 2017

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch,
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

***via ECFS***

RE: Submission of FCC Form 555 for Southern Communications Services, Inc., d/b/a Southern Linc; WC Docket No. 14-171

Dear Ms. Dortch,

Southern Communications Services, Inc., d/b/a Southern Linc, hereby files, pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.416, its FCC Form 555 – Annual Lifeline Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Certification Form detailing Southern Linc's ongoing compliance with lifeline requirements. Southern Linc has also submitted these forms to USAC and the relevant state commissions.

Please contact me at (678) 443-1716 if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryant Peters

Bryant Peters
External Affairs Specialist
Southern Communications Services, Inc.

FCC Form 555
November 2016

OMB Approval
3060-0819

**Annual Lifeline Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Certification Form**
All carriers must complete all or portions of all sections
Form must be submitted to USAC and filed with the Federal Communications Commission

# IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

***Deadline: January 31st (Annually)***

229006
Study Area Code (SAC)

143000842
Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN)

*(An Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) must provide a certification form for each SAC through which it provides Lifeline service).*

2016
Recertification Year

GA
State

Southern Communications Inc.
ETC Name

SouthernLINC Wireless
DBA, Marketing, or Other Branding Name
*(If same as ETC name, list "N/A" Do not leave blank)*

Southern Company
Holding Company Name
*(If same as ETC name, list "N/A" Do not leave blank)*

**Does the reporting company have affiliated ETCs?** Yes ☐ No ☐

*Provide a list of all ETCs that are affiliated with the reporting ETC, using page 4 and additional sheets if necessary. Affiliation shall be determined in accordance with Section 3(2) of the Communications Act. That Section defines "affiliate" as "a person that (directly or indirectly) owns or controls, is owned or controlled by, or is under common ownership or control with, another person." 47 U.S.C. § 153(2). See also 47 C.F.R. § 76.1200.*

| Affiliated ETC's SAC | Affiliated ETC's Name |
|---|---|
| | |

For purposes of this filing, an officer is an occupant of a position listed in the article of incorporation, articles of formation, or other similar legal document. An officer is a person who occupies a position specified in the corporate by-laws (or partnership agreement), and would typically be president, vice president for operations, vice president for finance, comptroller, treasurer, or a comparable position. If the filer is a sole proprietorship, the owner must sign the certification.

**Section 1:** **Initial Certification** *All ETCs must complete this section*

I certify that the company listed above has certification procedures in place to:

A) Review income and program-based eligibility documentation prior to enrolling a consumer in the Lifeline program, and that, to the best of my knowledge, the company was presented with documentation of each consumer's household income and/or program-based eligibility prior to his or her enrollment in Lifeline; and/or

B) Confirm consumer eligibility by relying upon access to a state database and/or notice of eligibility from the state Lifeline administrator prior to enrolling a consumer in the Lifeline program.

I am an officer of the company named above. I am authorized to make this certification for the Study Area Code listed above.

**Initial** JB

## Section 2: Annual Recertification

*Do not leave empty blocks. If an ETC has nothing to report in a block, enter a zero.*

| A | B | C | D | E = (A – B – C – D) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Number of subscribers claimed on February FCC Form 497 of current Form 555 calendar year** *(February data month)* | **Number of lines claimed on February FCC Form 497 of current Form 555 calendar year provided to wireline resellers** | **Number of subscribers claimed on the February FCC Form 497 that were initially enrolled in the current Form 555 calendar year** *(These subscribers did not have Lifeline service prior to January 1 of the current 555 calendar year.)* | **Number of subscribers de-enrolled prior to recertification attempt by either the ETC, a state administrator, access to an eligibility database, or by USAC** | **Number of subscribers ETC is responsible for recertifying for current Form 555 calendar year** |
| 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |

### Recertification Results:

| F | G | H = (F-G) | I | J = (H+I) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Number of subscribers ETC contacted directly to recertify eligibility through attestation** | **Number of subscribers responding to ETC contact** | **Number of non-responding subscribers** | **Number of subscribers responding that they are no longer eligible** *(This should be a subset of Block G.)* | **Number of subscribers de-enrolled or scheduled to be de-enrolled as a result of non-response or response of ineligibility from ETC recertification attempt** |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| K | L |
|---|---|
| **Number of subscribers whose eligibility was reviewed by state administrator, ETC access to eligibility database, or by USAC** | **Number of subscribers de-enrolled or scheduled to be de-enrolled as a result of finding of ineligibility by state administrator, ETC access to eligibility database, or USAC** |
| 3 | 1 |

**Note:** *If any subscriber was reviewed by an ETC accessing a state database or by a state administrator and subsequently contacted directly by the ETC in an attempt to recertify eligibility, those subscribers should be listed in Blocks F through J as appropriate and not in Blocks K and L. As a result, all subscribers subject to recertification who were not de-enrolled prior to the recertification attempt must be accounted for in Block F or Block K.*

***The total of Block F and Block K should equal the number reported in Block E.***

### Certification:

*Based on the data entered above, initial the certification(s) below that apply. Both Certification A and B may apply depending on the recertification procedures in place for the SAC reporting on this form. If Certification C applies, neither Certification A nor B may apply.*

A) I certify that the company listed above has procedures in place to recertify the continued eligibility of all of its Lifeline subscribers, and that, to the best of my knowledge, the company obtained signed certifications from all subscribers attesting to their continuing eligibility for Lifeline. Results are provided in the chart above in Blocks F through J. I am an officer of the company named above. I am authorized to make this certification for the SAC listed above.
**Initial** _____

**AND/OR**

B) I certify that the company listed above has procedures in place to recertify consumer eligibility by relying on: USAC_____. *(List database or name of administrator here)* Results are provided in the chart above in Blocks K through L. I am an officer of the company named above. I am authorized to make this certification for the SAC listed above.
**Initial** JB_____

**OR**

C) I certify that my company did not claim federal low income support for any Lifeline subscribers for the February Form 497 data month for the current Form 555 calendar year. I am an officer of the company named above. I am authorized to make this certification for the SAC listed above.
**Initial** _____

## Section 3: De-enroll Percentage

*Using the data entered in Section 2, complete the chart below to find the percentage of subscribers de-enrolled for this ETC.*

| M = (F+K) | N = (J+L) | O = ((N ÷ M) * 100) |
|---|---|---|
| **Number of subscribers that the ETC attempted to recertify directly or through a state administrator, ETC access to a state database, or by USAC** ***(This should equal the number reported in Block E)*** | Number of subscribers de-enrolled or scheduled to be de-enrolled as a result of non-response or ineligibility | **Percentage of subscribers de-enrolled or scheduled to be de-enrolled as a result of ineligibility or non-response** |
| 3 | 1 | 33.34% |

## Section 4: ETCs Subject to the Non-Usage Requirements

*All ETCs must complete the appropriate check-box. ETCs that do not assess and collect a monthly fee from their Lifeline subscribers are subject to the non-usage requirements. ETCs subject to the non-usage requirements must indicate the number of subscribers de-enrolled by month in Section 4. ETCs that only assess a fee but do not collect such fees are subject to the non-usage requirements and must also indicate the number of subscribers de-enrolled by month.*

**Is the ETC subject to the non-usage requirements?** Yes ☐ No ☒

*If yes, record the number of subscribers de-enrolled for non-usage by month in Block Q below.*

| P | Q |
|---|---|
| Month | Subscribers De-Enrolled for Non-Usage |
| January | 0 |
| February | 0 |
| March | 0 |
| April | 0 |
| May | 0 |
| June | 0 |
| July | 0 |
| August | 0 |
| September | 0 |
| October | 0 |
| November | 0 |
| December | 0 |
| Total Subscribers | 0 |

### Signature Block

By signing below, I certify that the company listed above is in compliance with all federal Lifeline certification procedures. I am an officer of the company named above. I am authorized to make this certification for the Study Area Code (SAC) listed above.

Signed,

Certified Online
Signature of Officer

John Batts, Finance Manager
Printed Name and Title of Officer

jpbatts@southernco.com
Email Address of Officer

01/31/2017
Date

Bryant Peters
Person Completing This Certification Form

678-443-1716
Contact Phone Number

OMB Approval
3060-0819

**Annual Lifeline Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Certification Form**
All carriers must complete all or portions of all sections
Form must be submitted to USAC and filed with the Federal Communications Commission

# IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

***Deadline: January 31st (Annually)***

| | |
|---|---|
| 259010 | 143000842 |
| Study Area Code (SAC) | Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN) |

*(An Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) must provide a certification form for each SAC through which it provides Lifeline service).*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2016 | AL | Southern Communications Inc. |
| Recertification Year | State | ETC Name |
| SouthernLINC Wireless | | Southern Company |
| DBA, Marketing, or Other Branding Name *(If same as ETC name, list "N/A" Do not leave blank)* | | Holding Company Name *(If same as ETC name, list "N/A" Do not leave blank)* |

**Does the reporting company have affiliated ETCs?** Yes ☐ No ☐

*Provide a list of all ETCs that are affiliated with the reporting ETC, using page 4 and additional sheets if necessary. Affiliation shall be determined in accordance with Section 3(2) of the Communications Act. That Section defines "affiliate" as "a person that (directly or indirectly) owns or controls, is owned or controlled by, or is under common ownership or control with, another person." 47 U.S.C. § 153(2). See also 47 C.F.R. § 76.1200.*

| Affiliated ETC's SAC | Affiliated ETC's Name |
|---|---|
| | |

For purposes of this filing, an officer is an occupant of a position listed in the article of incorporation, articles of formation, or other similar legal document. An officer is a person who occupies a position specified in the corporate by-laws (or partnership agreement), and would typically be president, vice president for operations, vice president for finance, comptroller, treasurer, or a comparable position. If the filer is a sole proprietorship, the owner must sign the certification.

**Section 1:** **Initial Certification** *All ETCs must complete this section*

I certify that the company listed above has certification procedures in place to:

A) Review income and program-based eligibility documentation prior to enrolling a consumer in the Lifeline program, and that, to the best of my knowledge, the company was presented with documentation of each consumer's household income and/or program-based eligibility prior to his or her enrollment in Lifeline; and/or

B) Confirm consumer eligibility by relying upon access to a state database and/or notice of eligibility from the state Lifeline administrator prior to enrolling a consumer in the Lifeline program.

I am an officer of the company named above. I am authorized to make this certification for the Study Area Code listed above.

**Initial** JB

## Section 2: Annual Recertification

*Do not leave empty blocks. If an ETC has nothing to report in a block, enter a zero.*

| A | B | C | D | E = (A – B – C – D) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Number of subscribers claimed on February FCC Form 497 of current Form 555 calendar year** *(February data month)* | **Number of lines claimed on February FCC Form 497 of current Form 555 calendar year provided to wireline resellers** | **Number of subscribers claimed on the February FCC Form 497 that were initially enrolled in the current Form 555 calendar year** *(These subscribers did not have Lifeline service prior to January 1 of the current 555 calendar year.)* | **Number of subscribers de-enrolled prior to recertification attempt by either the ETC, a state administrator, access to an eligibility database, or by USAC** | **Number of subscribers ETC is responsible for recertifying for current Form 555 calendar year** |
| 17 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 10 |

### Recertification Results:

| F | G | H = (F-G) | I | J = (H+I) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Number of subscribers ETC contacted directly to recertify eligibility through attestation** | **Number of subscribers responding to ETC contact** | **Number of non-responding subscribers** | **Number of subscribers responding that they are no longer eligible** *(This should be a subset of Block G.)* | **Number of subscribers de-enrolled or scheduled to be de-enrolled as a result of non-response or response of ineligibility from ETC recertification attempt** |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| K | L |
|---|---|
| **Number of subscribers whose eligibility was reviewed by state administrator, ETC access to eligibility database, or by USAC** | **Number of subscribers de-enrolled or scheduled to be de-enrolled as a result of finding of ineligibility by state administrator, ETC access to eligibility database, or USAC** |
| 10 | 5 |

**Note:** *If any subscriber was reviewed by an ETC accessing a state database or by a state administrator and subsequently contacted directly by the ETC in an attempt to recertify eligibility, those subscribers should be listed in Blocks F through J as appropriate and not in Blocks K and L. As a result, all subscribers subject to recertification who were not de-enrolled prior to the recertification attempt must be accounted for in Block F or Block K.*

***The total of Block F and Block K should equal the number reported in Block E.***

### Certification:

*Based on the data entered above, initial the certification(s) below that apply. Both Certification A and B may apply depending on the recertification procedures in place for the SAC reporting on this form. If Certification C applies, neither Certification A nor B may apply.*

**A)** I certify that the company listed above has procedures in place to recertify the continued eligibility of all of its Lifeline subscribers, and that, to the best of my knowledge, the company obtained signed certifications from all subscribers attesting to their continuing eligibility for Lifeline. Results are provided in the chart above in Blocks F through J. I am an officer of the company named above. I am authorized to make this certification for the SAC listed above.
**Initial** _____

**AND/OR**

**B)** I certify that the company listed above has procedures in place to recertify consumer eligibility by relying on: USAC _____. *(List database or name of administrator here)* Results are provided in the chart above in Blocks K through L. I am an officer of the company named above. I am authorized to make this certification for the SAC listed above.
**Initial** JB

**OR**

**C)** I certify that my company did not claim federal low income support for any Lifeline subscribers for the February Form 497 data month for the current Form 555 calendar year. I am an officer of the company named above. I am authorized to make this certification for the SAC listed above.
**Initial** _____

## Section 3: De-enroll Percentage

*Using the data entered in Section 2, complete the chart below to find the percentage of subscribers de-enrolled for this ETC.*

| M = (F+K) | N = (J+L) | O = ((N ÷ M) * 100) |
|---|---|---|
| **Number of subscribers that the ETC attempted to recertify directly or through a state administrator, ETC access to a state database, or by USAC** ***(This should equal the number reported in Block E)*** | Number of subscribers de-enrolled or scheduled to be de-enrolled as a result of non-response or ineligibility | **Percentage of subscribers de-enrolled or scheduled to be de-enrolled as a result of ineligibility or non-response** |
| 10 | 5 | 50.0% |

## Section 4: ETCs Subject to the Non-Usage Requirements

*All ETCs must complete the appropriate check-box. ETCs that do not assess and collect a monthly fee from their Lifeline subscribers are subject to the non-usage requirements. ETCs subject to the non-usage requirements must indicate the number of subscribers de-enrolled by month in Section 4. ETCs that only assess a fee but do not collect such fees are subject to the non-usage requirements and must also indicate the number of subscribers de-enrolled by month.*

**Is the ETC subject to the non-usage requirements?** Yes ☐ No ☒

*If yes, record the number of subscribers de-enrolled for non-usage by month in Block Q below.*

| P | Q |
|---|---|
| Month | Subscribers De-Enrolled for Non-Usage |
| January | 0 |
| February | 0 |
| March | 0 |
| April | 0 |
| May | 0 |
| June | 0 |
| July | 0 |
| August | 0 |
| September | 0 |
| October | 0 |
| November | 0 |
| December | 0 |
| Total Subscribers | 0 |

**Signature Block**

By signing below, I certify that the company listed above is in compliance with all federal Lifeline certification procedures. I am an officer of the company named above. I am authorized to make this certification for the Study Area Code (SAC) listed above.

Signed,

Certified Online
Signature of Officer

jpbatts@southernco.com
Email Address of Officer

Bryant Peters
Person Completing This Certification Form

John Batts, Finance Manager
Printed Name and Title of Officer

01/31/2017
Date

678-443-1716
Contact Phone Number