

**Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20554**

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support	)	WC Docket No. 09-197
	)	
Joint Board on Universal Service	)	CC Docket No. 96-45

**NOTICE OF RELINQUISHMENT OF  
ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER DESIGNATION**

NEP Cellcorp, Inc. ("NEP") hereby notifies the Commission that it is relinquishing its eligible telecommunications carrier ("ETC") designation (study area code 17910) throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, effective as soon as practicable.<sup>1</sup> NEP has decided to exit the wireless business and, accordingly, relinquishes its ETC designation throughout its entire wireless service area, which includes portions of Lackawanna, Susquehanna and Wayne Counties, Pennsylvania. In support of this notification, NEP provides the following information.

In 2008, the Commission designated NEP as an ETC within certain portions of its licensed wireless service area in Pennsylvania.<sup>2</sup> At NEP's request, that authority was

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<sup>1</sup> NEP ceased providing retail services as of October 16, 2015. *See infra*. Any Universal Service Funding that may be received for periods falling after that date will be reserved for reimbursement to the Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC") as directed by the Commission.

<sup>2</sup> *High-Cost Universal Service Support, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Alltel Communications, Inc., et al., Petitions for Designation as Eligible Telecommunications Carriers*, WC Docket Nos. 05-337, 96-45, Order, 23 FCC Rcd 8834, 8866 (2008).

subsequently expanded.<sup>3</sup>

Section 214(e)(4) of the Act permits a Commission-designated ETC to relinquish its designation in any area served by more than one ETC. Several ETCs provide service within the NEP service area. In Attachment A, NEP provides a list of incumbent local exchange carriers ("ILECs"), each an ETC, providing service to wire centers within NEP's service area. In addition, Attachment B lists known competitive ETCs with service areas that overlap portions of NEP's service area. To the best of NEP's knowledge, none of the remaining ETCs in the NEP service area will be required to purchase or construct additional facilities to continue to provide service within the affected areas.

NEP provided notice to all customers, including its single Lifeline customer, on or

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<sup>3</sup> *In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, NEP Cellcorp, Inc. Petition to Amend Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of Pennsylvania*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Order, 25 FCC Rcd 4567 (2010). Subsequently, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission ("PUC") informed the Commission of its decision to exercise authority to designate wireless ETCs under Section 214(e)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the "Act") (47 U.S.C. §214(e)(2)). *See* Response of Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission to FCC request for Review and Approval of Proposed Redefinition of Service Areas, WC Docket No. 05-337, CC Docket 96-45 (filed Feb. 2, 2010). Thereafter, the PUC amended and expanded NEP's ETC designation with respect to Lifeline Service to include additional areas within Wayne County, Pennsylvania. *See Petition of NEP Cellcorp, Inc. to Amend Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the Commonwealth of PA for the Purpose of Providing Lifeline Service on a Wireless Basis*, Order, Docket No. P-2013-2356640 (2014). On October 30, 2015, NEP filed a Petition to Relinquish its Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This proceeding is ongoing.

about June 8, 2015 of its intent to exit the retail wireless business.<sup>4</sup> At that time, NEP mailed to each subscriber's billing address a letter notifying him or her of NEP's decision to exit the retail wireless business by September 22, 2015.<sup>5</sup> Also on June 8, 2015, NEP sent a press release to the Forest City News, which newspaper subsequently published the release. In addition, the Carbondale News ran a cover story related to the transition on June 26, 2015.

During this 100+ day time frame, NEP also sent three (free) text messages to all subscribers of record (on each of July 6, August 24 and September 11) reminding subscribers that service was ending as of September 22, and encouraging customers to contact NEP for options for continuing service.<sup>6</sup> Customers were not subject to any fee from NEP for service migration, and no early termination fees were imposed. As of

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<sup>4</sup> Subsequent to this decision, NEP entered into an agreement with AT&T Mobility ("AT&T") through which AT&T will purchase certain NEP spectrum assets, pending FCC approval. *See* WT Docket No. 15-221 (Application of New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC and NEP Cellcorp, Inc. for Consent to Assign Licenses).

<sup>5</sup> NEP has submitted to the Commission a copy of its customer notification, as well as a copy of the press release. *See Response of NEP Cellcorp, Inc. to General Information Request Dated October 2, 2015*, WT Docket No. 15-221 ("NEP Response"), Exhibits 1 and 2 (filed October 16, 2015).

<sup>6</sup> Subscribers were encouraged to review their options regarding alternative service providers, and were informed that AT&T had made available a limited promotional offering (i.e., waived activation fee and bill credits) to NEP wireless customers that converted to AT&T service before September 22, 2015.

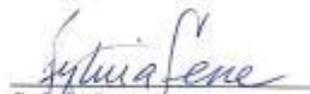
October 16, 2015, all customers had been migrated from its retail wireless facilities.<sup>7</sup> NEP's network remains operational, and the company continues to provide roaming services.

At the time of NEP's notification to customers of its intent to exit the retail wireless business in June 2015, NEP had a single Lifeline customer. That customer ported its wireless service to AT&T on July 24, 2015, and NEP understands that this customer currently receives Lifeline service from another carrier.

For foregoing reasons, NEP requests prompt acceptance of NEP's ETC relinquishment.

Respectfully submitted,  
**NEP Cellcorp, Inc.**

By:

  
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<sup>7</sup> NEP reported that a small number of customers remained on its system as of time that it submitted its October 16, 2015 Response, and noted that it planned to continue providing service through October 22, 2015 in order to encourage a timely and seamless transition for those few remaining customers. *See* Response at p. 8. As of the close of business on October 16, 2015, however, all customers had successfully migrated to other carriers. On November 16, 2015, NEP filed a Section 1.65 Amendment reporting that fact in WT Docket No. 15-221.

## ATTACHMENT A

### ILEC WIRE CENTERS

<b>LEC Name</b>	<b>Wire Center</b>	<b>CLLI Code</b>
Deposit Telephone Co. Inc. (TDS Telecom)	Sherman	DPSTNYXA
Frontier Communications	Brooklyn	BRKLPAXB
Frontier Communications	Hallstead	HLSTPAXH
Frontier Communications	Lawsville	LYCNPAXL
Frontier Communications	Little Meadows – PA	LTMDPAXL
Frontier Communications	Montrose	MTRSPAXM
Frontier Communications	Quaker Lake – PA	QKLPAXQ
Frontier Communications	Rush	RUSHPAXR
Frontier Communications	St. Joseph	STJSPAXS
Frontier Communications	Susquehanna	SSQHPAXS
Hancock Telephone Co. NY	Winterdale	HNCCNYXA
North-Eastern Pennsylvania Telephone Co.	Clifford	CLIFPAXC
North-Eastern Pennsylvania Telephone Co.	Forest City	FRCYPAXF
North-Eastern Pennsylvania Telephone Co.	Harford	HARDPAXF
North-Eastern Pennsylvania Telephone Co.	Jackson	JKSNPAXJ
North-Eastern Pennsylvania Telephone Co.	New Milford	NMFRPAXN
North-Eastern Pennsylvania Telephone Co.	Pleasant Mount	PLMTPAXP
North-Eastern Pennsylvania Telephone Co.	Thompson	THSNPAXT
North-Eastern Pennsylvania Telephone Co.	Union Dale	UNLDPAXU
South Canaan Telephone Co.	So. Canaan	SCNNPAXS
South Canaan Telephone Co.	Waymart	WYMRPAXW
Verizon North (Quaker)	Beach Lake	BCLKPAXB
Verizon North (Quaker)	Galilee	GALLPAXG
Verizon Pennsylvania	Hamlin	HMLNPAHM
Verizon Pennsylvania	Honesdale	HSDLPAHO
Verizon Pennsylvania	Hawley	HWLYPAHW
Verizon Pennsylvania	Lake Ariel	LKARPALA
Verizon Pennsylvania	Moscow	MSCWPAMW
Verizon Pennsylvania	Newfoundland	NFLDPANE

**ATTACHMENT B**

**LIST OF COMPETITIVE ETCs  
PROVIDING SERVICE IN  
LACKAWANNA, SUSQUEHANNA AND/OR WAYNE COUNTIES**

<b>Study Area Code</b>	<b>Study Area Name</b>	<b>Technology</b>
179011	Tracfone Wireless Inc. (d/b/a Safelink)	Wireless
179012	Virgin Mobile USA LP (d/b/a Assurance Wireless)	Wireless
179013	YourTel America Inc. (d/b/a YourTel Wireless)	Wireless
179014	T-Mobile USA Inc.	Wireless
179015	Budget Prepay Inc. (d/b/a Budget Phone)	Wireless
179016	T-Mobile Northeast LLC, T-Mobile Central LLC & Voicestream	Wireless
179018	Global Connection Inc. of America (d/b/a StandUp Wireless)	Wireless
179019	TAG Mobile LLC	Wireless
179020	Q Link Wireless LLC	Wireless
179026	Blue Jay Wireless LLC	Wireless