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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
 445 12th STREET, S.W.
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

DA 99-2511

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WESTERN WIRELESS CORPORATION PETITIONS FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER TO PROVIDE SERVICES ELIGIBLE FOR UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT IN WYOMING

PLEADING CYCLE ESTABLISHED

CC Docket No. 96-45

Release Date: November 10, 1999

Comment Date: December 17, 1999

Reply Comment Date: January 10, 1999

On September 29, 1999, Western Wireless Corporation's wholly-owned subsidiary, WWC Holding Co., Inc. (Western Wireless), submitted a petition pursuant to section 214(e)(6) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, seeking designation by this Commission as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) for universal service support in Wyoming. Western Wireless contends that it satisfies all the statutory prerequisites for designation as a ETC, and it is not subject to the jurisdiction of a state commission.¹ Western Wireless also contends that designation as a ETC in service areas served by rural telephone companies will advance the public interest in this case.² We seek comment on the issues raised in Western Wireless's petition.

Pursuant to sections 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.415, 1.419, interested parties may file comments on or before **December 17, 1999**, and reply comments on or before **January 10, 1999**. Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) or by filing paper copies. See *Electronic Filing of*

¹ Western Wireless Corporation, *Petition for ETC Designation*, CC Docket No. 96-45 (filed September 29, 1999)(*Petition*) at 4. Western Wireless notes that the Wyoming Public Service Commission has issued an Order concluding that it does not have jurisdiction to consider Western Wireless ETC status under Wyoming law. See *Petition* at 5 citing *Application of WWC Holding Co, Inc. for Authority to be Designated as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier*, Order Granting Motion to Dismiss Amended Application, Docket No. 70042-TA-98-1 (rel. August 13, 1999).

² *Petition* at 11.

Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings, 63 Fed. Reg. 24,121 (1998). Comments filed through the ECFS can be sent as an electronic file via the Internet to <<http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>>. Generally, only one copy of an electronic submission must be filed. If multiple docket or rulemaking numbers appear in the caption of this proceeding, however, commenters must transmit one electronic copy of the comments to each docket or rulemaking number referenced in the caption. In completing the transmittal screen, commenters should include their full name, Postal Service mailing address, and the applicable docket or rulemaking number. Parties may also submit electronic comments by Internet e-mail. To receive filing instructions for e-mail comments, commenters should send an e-mail to ecfs@fcc.gov, and should include the following words in the body of the message, "get form <your e-mail address.>" A sample form and directions will be sent in reply. Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and four copies of each filing. If more than one docket or rulemaking number appears in the caption of this proceeding, commenters must submit two additional copies for each additional docket or rulemaking number. All filings must be sent to the Commission's Secretary, Magalie Roman Salas, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.

Parties also must send three paper copies of their filing to Sheryl Todd, Accounting Policy Division, Common Carrier Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, 445 Twelfth Street S.W., Room 5-B540, Washington, D.C. 20554. In addition, commenters must send diskette copies to the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Service, Inc., 1231 20th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

Pursuant to section 1.1206 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, this proceeding will be conducted as a permit-but-disclose proceeding in which *ex parte* communications are permitted subject to disclosure.

For further information, contact Richard D. Smith, Accounting Policy Division, Common Carrier Bureau at (202) 418-7400, TTY (202) 418-0484.