

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

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In the Matter of)
)
Federal-State Joint Board on)
Universal Service)
)
Highland Cellular, Inc.)
)
Petition for Designation as an)
Eligible Telecommunications Carrier)
in the Commonwealth of Virginia)

FEB 26 2003

CC Docket No. 96-45 FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

DA 02-2487

To: Wireline Competition Bureau

**Second Amendment to Petition for Designation as an
Eligible Telecommunications Carrier**

Highland Cellular, Inc. ("Highland Cellular", "Company"), by counsel, hereby submits this Second Amendment to its Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the Commonwealth of Virginia ("Petition").

I. DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENT

Highland Cellular hereby amends and clarifies its Petition as follows:

A. Service Area of United Telephone Company - Southeast Virginia ("UTC")

In its Petition, Highland Cellular stated that "UTC provides service to two noncontiguous areas within the state" and that "Highland Cellular is not licensed to serve the noncontiguous service areas that UTC is licensed to serve ... The wire centers that make up this noncontiguous area are listed in Exhibit F." Petition at pp. 11-12. Although the three UTC wire centers Highland Cellular serves are not contiguous' in that the Saltville wire center is separated

¹ "Contiguous" is defined as "being in actual contact - touching along a boundary or at a point", or "touching or connected throughout in an unbroken sequence <contiguous row

from the Ceres and Bland wire centers by a non-UTC wire center; UTC's overall study area consists of a contiguous block of 28 wire centers. Accordingly, Highland Cellular amends its Petition to clarify that, although Highland Cellular is only licensed to serve three UTC wire centers that are noncontiguous within Highland Cellular's service area, all three wire centers are contiguous with the remaining 25 UTC wire centers. The covered and non-covered wire centers are accurately listed on p. 12 of the Petition. Moreover, the foregoing amendment does not require modification of Exhibit F to the Petition, which accurately lists all UTC wire centers as requiring reclassification, *i.e.*, redefinition along wire center boundaries. A map showing the UTC wire centers in relation to Highland Cellular's requested ETC service area is attached as Exhibit 1.³

B. Redefinition of Verizon South, Inc. - VA ("Verizon South") Wire Centers

On October 23, 2002, Highland Cellular amended its Petition to acknowledge the rural self-certification filed on behalf of Verizon South and to include that company's wire centers in Exhibit F ("RURAL ETC WIRE CENTERS REQUIRING RECLASSIFICATION"). Highland Cellular now clarifies that it requests that all wire centers listed in Exhibit F, as amended, including those of Verizon South, be redefined so that each wire center constitutes a separate service area, consistent with the FCC's recent actions in similar cases.⁴

houses >". See Merriam-Webster OnLine at <http://www.m-w.com>.

² The Saltville and Ceres wire centers are approximately 5 miles apart at their closest point, which occurs within Highland Cellular's service area.

³ Due to recently updated mapping software, UTC is referred to on the attached map as United Inter-Mountain Telephone Company.

⁴ See, e.g., *RCC Holdings, Inc., Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Throughout its Licensed Service Area in the State of Alabama*, CC Docket No. 96-45, DA 02-3317 at ¶ 37 (WCB rel. Nov. 27, 2002) (rev. pending); Public Notice, *The Colorado Public Utilities Commission Petitions to Redefine the Service Area of CenturyTel*

C. Percentage of Wire Centers Covered

Recently, Wireline Competition Bureau staff informally requested information regarding the extent to which each partially covered wire center is covered by Highland Cellular's licensed service area. In response to this request, Highland Cellular provides the following information:

<u>Wire Center Code</u>	<u>Locality</u>	<u>Percent Covered</u>
JWRGVAXA	Jewell Ridge	54.4%
RCLDVAXA	Richlands	84.6%
SLVLVAXA	Saltville	45.4%

II. CONCLUSION

Highland Cellular respectfully requests that the Bureau take note of the amendment set forth herein and that the Bureau grant the Company's Petition, as amended, on an expedited basis.

Respectfully submitted,

Highland Cellular, Inc.

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of Eagle, Inc. in the State of Colorado, DA 02-2087 (WCB rel. Aug. 26, 2002) (effective data Nov. 26, 2002); *Petition for Agreement with Designation of Rural Company Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Service Areas and for Approval of the Use of Disaggregation of Study Areas for the Purpose of Distributing Portable Federal Universal Service Support*, *Memorandum Opinion and Order*, CC Docket 96-45, DA 99-1844 (CCB rel. Sept. 9, 1999).

EXHIBIT 1

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the SECOND AMENDMENT TO PETITION FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER was sent via U.S. Mail to the following persons on this 26th day of February 2003.

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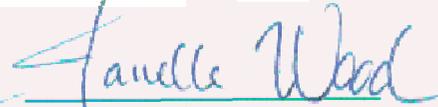
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