



Louisiana Public Service Commission

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Deputy Undersecretary

Karen Majcher
Vice President, High Cost and Low Income Division
Universal Service Administrative Company
2000 L Street, NW
Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20036

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

**Re: CC Docket No. 96-45
Central Louisiana Cellular, LLC (SAC not yet assigned)
Certification of High-Cost Support under 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313 and 54.314**

Dear Ms. Majcher and Ms. Dortch:

By order dated August 4, 2010, the Louisiana Public Service Commission ("PSC") granted the Petition by Central Louisiana Cellular, LLC (the "Company") for partial transfer of the Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") status previously granted to Centennial Communications.

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. Sections 54.313 and 54.314 and based on the Company's recent correspondence to the PSC, enclosed, the PSC hereby certifies that all federal high-cost support provided to the Company in areas served by rural and/or non-rural telephone companies will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, consistent with Section 254(e) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. 47 U.S.C. Section 254(e). This certification applies from the effective date of the enclosed Final Order, August 4, 2010, through the end of calendar year 2010. This certification

Karen Majcher
Marlene H. Dortch
September 30, 2010
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is timely filed within the 60-day window permitted under Sections 54.313 and 54.314 of the FCC's Rules.

Sincerely,



Eve Kahao Gonzalez
Executive Secretary

Enclosures

cc: Gordon D. Polozola

EXHIBIT B

Designated Areas for which Central Louisiana Cellular, LLC
Seeks the Partial Transfer of ETC Designation in this Petition

1. Rural Telephone Company Study Areas

270423 Centurytel-Centr LA

270426 Campti-Pleasant Hill

270430 Elizabeth Tel Co

270439 Centurytel-Ringgold

270441 Star Tel Co.

2. Non-Rural ILEC Wire Centers

275183 BellSouth

ALXNLADV
ALXNLAMA
ALXNLATG
BOYCLAMA
BUNKLAMA
CASTLAMA
CLFXLAMA
CNVRLAMA
CSHTLAMA
DRDRLAMA
DRPGLAMA
FLRNLAMA
GRCNLAMA
GRTWLAMA
HRNBLAMA
KTCHLAMA
KTVLLAMA
LCMPLAMA
LEVLLABF

LEVLLAFP
LEVLLAMA
LEVLLASN
LGPTLAMA
MANYLAMA
MKVLLAHM
MKVLLAMN
MNFDLAMA
MTGMLAMA
MYVLLAMA
NTCHLACR
NTCHLAMA
PLLCLAMA
RBLNLAMA
RYVLLAMA
SHPTLACL
WNFDLACA
ZWLLAMA

LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

ORDER NO. S-31330

CENTRAL LOUISIANA CELLULAR, LLC EX PARTE

Docket No. S-31330 In Re: Petition for partial transfer of the ETC status of Centennial Communications Corp. to Central Louisiana Cellular, LLC.

(Decided at the June 23, 2010 Business and Executive Session.)
(Amends and Order U-27174-A)

Nature of the Case

On May 26, 2004, the Commission issued Order U-27174-A, designating Centennial Communications Corp. ("Centennial") as a competitive ETC for the purposes of receiving High Cost Universal Service support. This designation included the non-rural Lafayette, Alexandria and Lake Charles MSAs and the LA-2 through LA-7 RSAs. Since the time of the Commission's designation, Centennial has remained in compliance with all Commission-imposed reporting requirements and consequently received federal USF support.

In 2009, AT&T acquired Centennial, with the FCC ultimately issuing its approval of the merger and acquisition in November 2009. As a condition of the merger approval, AT&T was required to divest the assets of Centennial in eight markets in Louisiana and Mississippi. Five of the eight markets were sold to Verizon Wireless: the Lafayette MSA and RSAs LA-5 through 8. Central Louisiana Cellular ("Central") is acquiring the Alexandria MSA and RSA LA-3 through its acquisition of Centennial's licenses, network assets and subscribers. Central will continue to provide service to customers in those Louisiana markets as "Centennial". In light of this acquisition, and the seamless effect it will have on the existing customers in those areas, Central filed a petition with the Commission seeking a partial transfer of the Commission's prior designation of Centennial as an ETC for the acquired license areas. As stated in the application, this transfer will be bound by the original requirements of the LPSC placed on that designation and allow customers in those areas to continue to receive the benefits of the ETC designation.

Central's petition was published in the Commission's Official Bulletin dated April 16, 2010. Timely intervention was received by the Small Company Committee of the Louisiana Telecommunications Association ("SCC"). The SCC specifically stated in its Intervention, however, that it did not oppose the petition in light of Central's commitment to comply with the requirements of Order No. U-27174-A and the LPSC's General Order dated May 20, 2004 and the fact that Central is seeking to simply acquire an ETC status previously designated by this Commission. A status conference was convened to further discuss the matter and it was determined that the docket would be re-published as an "S" docket for informational purposes and that the SCC would withdraw its intervention. Both of these procedural steps were accomplished, and, by Notice dated June 1, 2010, the matter was converted back to an "S" docket to be handled on a Staff level.

Jurisdiction and Applicable Law

The Commission exercises jurisdiction over public utilities in Louisiana pursuant to the Louisiana Constitution Article IV, Section 21(B), which states:

The commission shall regulate all common carriers and public utilities and have such other regulatory authority as provided by law. It shall adopt and enforce reasonable rules, regulations and procedures

necessary for the discharge of its duties, and shall have other powers and perform other duties as provide by law.

47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(2) grants the power to the state commissions to designate a common carrier that meets the requirements of 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1) as an ETC for a service area specified by the commission.

The requirements of 47 USC § 214(e) are as follows:

(1) Eligible telecommunications carriers - A common carrier designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier under paragraph (2), (3), or (6) shall be eligible to receive universal service support in accordance with section 254 of this title and shall, throughout the service area for which the designation is received—

(A) offer the services that are supported by federal universal service support mechanisms under section 254(c) of this title, either using its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale of another carrier's services (including the services offered by another eligible telecommunications carrier); and

(B) advertise the availability of such services and the charges there for using media of general distribution.

(2) Designation of eligible telecommunications carriers - A State commission shall upon its own motion or upon request designate a common carrier that meets the requirements of paragraph (1) as an eligible telecommunications carrier for a service area designated by the State commission. Upon request and consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity, the State commission may, in the case of an area served by a rural telephone company, and shall, in the case of all other areas, designate more than one common carrier as an eligible telecommunications carrier for a service area designated by the State commission, so long as each additional requesting carrier meets the requirements of paragraph (1). Before designating an additional eligible telecommunications carrier for an area served by a rural telephone company, the State commission shall find that the designation is in the public interest.

Additionally, the supported services that must be provided as a requirement for ETC designation are contained in 47 C.F.R. § 54.101, which provides as follows:

(a) Services designated for support. The following services or functionalities shall be supported by federal universal service support mechanisms:

(1) Voice grade access to the public switched network. "Voice grade access" is defined as a functionality that enables a user of telecommunications services to transmit voice communications, including signaling the network that the caller wishes to place a call, and to receive voice communications, including receiving a signal indicating there is an incoming call. For the purposes of this part, bandwidth for voice grade access should be, at a minimum, 300 to 3,000 Hertz;

(2) Local usage. "Local usage" means an amount of minutes of use of exchange service, prescribed by the Commission, provided free of charge to end users;

(3) Dual tone multi-frequency signaling or its functional equivalent. "Dual tone multi-frequency" (DTMF) is a method of signaling

that facilitates the transportation of signaling through the network, shortening call set-up time;

- (4) Single-party service or its functional equivalent. "Single-party service" is telecommunications service that permits users to have exclusive use of a wireline subscriber loop or access line for each call placed, or, in the case of wireless telecommunications carriers, which use spectrum shared among users to provide service, a dedicated message path for the length of a user's particular transmission;
 - (5) Access to emergency services. "Access to emergency services" includes access to services, such as 911 and enhanced 911, provided by local governments or other public safety organizations. 911 is defined as a service that permits a telecommunications user, by dialing the three-digit code "911," to call emergency services through a Public Service Access Point (PSAP) operated by the local government. "Enhanced 911" is defined as 911 service that includes the ability to provide automatic numbering information (ANI), which enables the PSAP to call back if the call is disconnected, and automatic location information (ALI), which permits emergency service providers to identify the geographic location of the calling party. "Access to emergency services" includes access to 911 and enhanced 911 services to the extent the local government in an eligible carrier's service area has implemented 911 or enhanced 911 systems;
 - (6) Access to operator services. "Access to operator services" is defined as access to any automatic or live assistance to a consumer to arrange for billing or completion, or both, of a telephone call;
 - (7) Access to interexchange service. "Access to interexchange service" is defined as the use of the loop, as well as that portion of the switch that is paid for by the end user, or the functional equivalent of these network elements in the case of a wireless carrier, necessary to access an interexchange carrier's network;
 - (8) Access to directory assistance. "Access to directory assistance" is defined as access to a service that includes, but is not limited to, making available to customers, upon request, information contained in directory listings; and
 - (9) Toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers. Toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers is described in subpart E of this part.
- (b) Requirement to offer all designated services. An eligible telecommunications carrier must offer each of the services set forth in paragraph (a) of this section in order to receive federal universal service support.
 - (c) Additional time to complete network upgrades. A state commission may grant the petition of a telecommunications carrier that is otherwise eligible to receive universal service support under Sec. 54.201 requesting additional time to complete the network upgrades needed to provide single-party service, access to enhanced 911 service, or toll limitation. If such petition is granted, the otherwise eligible telecommunications carrier will be permitted to receive universal service support for the duration of the period designated by the state commission. State

commissions should grant such a request only upon a finding that exceptional circumstances prevent an otherwise eligible telecommunications carrier from providing single-party service, access to enhanced 911 service, or toll limitation. The period should extend only as long as the relevant state commission finds that exceptional circumstances exist and should not extend beyond the time that the state commission deems necessary for that eligible telecommunications carrier to complete network upgrades. An otherwise eligible telecommunications carrier that is incapable of offering one or more of these three specific universal services must demonstrate to the state commission that exceptional circumstances exist with respect to each service for which the carrier desires a grant of additional time to complete network upgrades.

Consistent with the above sections, the Commission issued a General Order dated May 20, 2004, which establishes specific public interest criteria applicable for applications seeking ETC designation in areas served by rural telecommunications carriers.

Staff's Recommendation and Commission's Consideration

Following reversion of this docket to the "Staff level", Staff reviewed Century's petition, all subsequent filings in the docket, and the Commission's prior order designating Centennial as an ETC. Staff notes that the Commission is authorized under Sections 214(e) and 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 to designate carriers as ETCs for the purpose of receiving federal universal service support. In the case of a carrier seeking ETC status in the area served by a rural ILEC, the Commission must determine that the application is in the public interest. The Commission made such a determination in Order U-27174-A, wherein it designated Centennial as an ETC for the purpose of receiving Federal USF support in areas served by both rural and non-rural ILECs. In the matter currently before the Commission, Central, a newly formed entity comprised of former Centennial employees, operating through Centennial's currently existing store locations, and using Centennial's licenses and towers for the Alexandria MSA and LA-3 RSA, seeks to acquire the existing Centennial ETC designation for those areas.

Based upon the record evidence, and in particular the history of compliance with the Commission's ETC regulations from Centennial and the commitment of Central to continue to comply with those requirements, Staff concludes that Central meets all of the criteria for ETC designation contained in Section 214(e)(1) of the Telecom Act. Additionally, as this acquisition will ensure the ETC benefits that currently exist for customers in these areas, Staff concludes that the acquisition is in the public interest. Staff would further note that granting Central's petition will have no impact on the Federal USF, as Central will simply be partially acquiring an existing ETC designation.

Consistent with the above, Staff Recommended the Commission grant the relief requested, as follows:

1. The Commission grants Central's petition and partially transfer the ETC status designated to Centennial Communications in Order U-27174-A to Central Louisiana Cellular, LLC for the Alexandria MSA and the LA-3 RSA.
2. This transfer shall be limited to the specific Rural Telephone Company Study Areas and Non-Rural ILEC Wire Centers contained in Exhibit B to Central's Petition.
3. This transfer shall be contingent upon Central's continued compliance with the requirements established by the Commission in Order U-27174-A and the General Order dated May 20, 2004.
4. The Commission shall provide notice of its ultimate Order to the FCC and the Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC").

Staff's Recommendation was considered by the Commission at its June 23, 2010 Business and Executive Session. On Motion of Commissioner Holloway, Seconded by Commissioner

Field, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to accept Staff's Recommendation and partially transfer the Centennial ETC designation to Central.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT

1. The Commission grants Central's petition and partially transfer the ETC status designated to Centennial Communications in Order U-27174-A to Central Louisiana Cellular, LLC for the Alexandria MSA and the LA-3 RSA.
2. This transfer shall be limited to the specific Rural Telephone Company Study Areas and Non-Rural ILEC Wire Centers contained in Exhibit B to Central's Petition.
3. This transfer shall be contingent upon Central's continued compliance with the requirements established by the Commission in Order U-27174-A and the General Order dated May 20, 2004.
4. The Commission shall provide notice of its ultimate Order to the FCC and the Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC").
5. This Order shall be effective immediately.

**BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**

August 4, 2010

/S/ LAMBERT C. BOISSIERE, III
DISTRICT III
CHAIRMAN LAMBERT C. BOISSIERE, III

/S/ JAMES M. FIELD
DISTRICT II
VICE CHAIRMAN JAMES M. FIELD

/S/ FOSTER L. CAMPBELL
DISTRICT V
COMMISSIONER FOSTER L. CAMPBELL

/S/ ERIC F. SKRMETTA
DISTRICT I
COMMISSIONER ERIC F. SKRMETTA


EVE KAHAO GONZALEZ
SECRETARY

/S/ CLYDE C. HOLLOWAY
DISTRICT IV
COMMISSIONER CLYDE C. HOLLOWAY

Central Louisiana Cellular, LLC

August 30, 2010

VIA OVERNIGHT COURIER

Louisiana Public Service Commission

Attn: Eve K. Gonzalez

Executive Secretary

Galvez Building, 12th Floor

602 North Fifth Street

Baton Rouge, LA 70802

**Re: High Cost Certification of Central Louisiana Cellular, LLC
LPSC Docket No. S-31330**

Dear Ms. Gonzalez:

This certification is provided pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313 and 54.314. On behalf of **Central Louisiana Cellular, LLC**, I hereby certify under penalty of perjury that all high-cost universal service support provided to the company for the 2010 calendar year will be used only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, pursuant to Section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

The Louisiana Public Service Commission ("LPSC") issued Order No. S-31330 on August 4, 2010, designating the company as an eligible telecommunications carrier ("ETC") in the State of Louisiana. The company's eligibility to receive ETC support from the effective date of the Order through the end of the 2010 calendar year is dependent upon the LPSC providing a certification of the company's eligibility to the FCC and USAC within sixty (60) days of certification. *See* 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313 and 54.314. Accordingly, the company hereby requests that the LPSC transmit a letter to the FCC and USAC to provide for the certification.

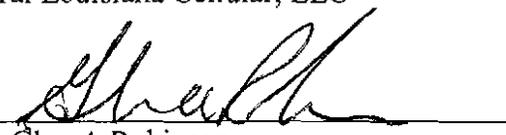
Thank you for your assistance in this matter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our General Counsel, Julia K. Tanner, at (703) 528-8852 or our counsel at Kean Miller, Gordon Polozola, at (225) 382-3440.

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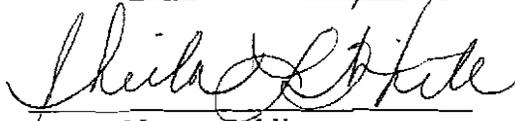
STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Pennsylvania that I am authorized to make this certification on behalf of Central Louisiana Cellular, LLC and that the foregoing is true and correct.

Central Louisiana Cellular, LLC

By: 
Glen A Robinson
Chief Technology Officer

Subscribed and sworn to before
me this 30 day of August, 2010.


Notary Public