

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE COLLECTION
AND SUBMISSION OF STUDY AREA
BOUNDARIES OF INCUMBENT LOCAL
EXCHANGE CARRIERS TO THE FEDERAL
COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION.

CASE NO. 13-710-TP-UNC

FINDING AND ORDER

Entered in the Journal on May 31, 2023

I. SUMMARY

{¶ 1} The Commission recertifies to the Federal Communications Commission the study area boundaries of the incumbent local exchange carriers listed in the attachment to this Finding and Order.

II. DISCUSSION

{¶ 2} Pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-6-32, this Commission serves as the administrator of telephone exchange boundaries, boundary changes, and borderline boundaries. Specifically, Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-6-32 requires incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs) to file an application seeking Commission approval whenever the company seeks to change the boundary of an exchange area. This rule further reflects that Commission-maintained telephone exchange boundary maps are the official source/documentation of ILEC service areas and boundaries.

{¶ 3} On November 6, 2012, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released a Report and Order in *Connect America Fund; High-Cost Universal Service Support*, WC Docket No. 10-90, *et al.*, that, among other things, established requirements for the collection of study area boundary data from ILECs or state entities on the ILECs' behalf. The FCC uses this study area boundary data for multiple purposes associated with awarding federal universal service funds back to the states including for purposes of high cost funding and broadband. The initial study area boundary data was due in 2013 and is to be recertified every two years.

{¶ 4} On February 26, 2013, the FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau released a subsequent *Order on Reconsideration* that adopted certain modifications and clarifications to the requirements for that data collection. As set forth in the orders, each ILEC must submit data on the boundary(ies) of each exchange area(s) it serves in a state (study area boundary), unless a state commission voluntarily submits this data for the ILECs in its state.

{¶ 5} In Finding and Orders issued on July 2, 2013, May 20, 2015, June 21, 2017, May 1, 2019, and June 16, 2021, the Commission certified the study area boundary data to the FCC on behalf of those Ohio ILECs that chose not to file directly with the FCC.

{¶ 6} By Entry issued on April 25, 2023, this Commission announced its willingness to submit and recertify ILEC study area boundary information to the FCC as a benefit to the ILECs. The April 25, 2023 Entry further outlined the information the ILECs would need to submit to the Commission in order to satisfy the FCC's requirements or a letter certifying that none of the ILECs' information had changed since 2021. Additionally, the ILECs were instructed to submit an affidavit stating that the submitted study area boundary information is accurate and correct to the best of the affiant's belief and knowledge. The April 25, 2023 Entry further clarified that any ILEC that fails to docket the affidavit and submit the additional information to Staff electronically would be responsible, on its own, for complying with the FCC's study area boundary recertification orders.

{¶ 7} Twenty-seven ILECs have submitted the necessary information to the Commission in order for the Commission to submit the information to the FCC on their behalf. The Commission now recertifies to the FCC the study area boundary information for the 27 ILECs set forth in the attachment to this order and Staff is authorized to upload electronically the necessary information to the FCC accordingly.

III. ORDER

{¶ 8} It is, therefore,

{¶ 9} ORDERED, That the Commission now recertifies the information as discussed in Paragraph (7). It is, further,

{¶ 10} ORDERED, That a copy of this Finding and Order be served upon the Ohio Telecom Association and all incumbent local exchange carriers in Ohio.

COMMISSIONERS:

Approving:

Jenifer French, Chair
Daniel R. Conway
Lawrence K. Friedeman
Dennis P. Deters
John D. Williams

JSA/dmh

ILEC Name	Study Area Code
1. The Arthur Mutual Telephone Company	300586
2. Ayersville Telephone Company	300588
3. Bascom Mutual Telephone Company	300589
4. Benton Ridge Telephone Company	300590
5. Buckland Telephone Company	300591
6. The Champaign Telephone Company	300594
7. The Chillicothe Telephone Company	300597
8. Cincinnati Bell Telephone Company LLC d/b/a altafiber	305062
9. The Conneaut Telephone Company, Inc.	300606
10. Doylestown Telephone Company	300609
11. Farmers Mutual Telephone Company	300612
12. The Fort Jennings Telephone Company	300614
13. Glandorf Telephone Company	300619
14. Kalida Telephone Company	300625
15. The McClure Telephone Company	300598
16. Middle Point Home Telephone Company	300633
17. Minford Telephone Company	300634
18. New Knoxville Telephone Company	300639
19. Nova Telephone Company	300644
20. The Ottoville Mutual Telephone Company	300650
21. Pattersonville Telephone Company	300651
22. Ridgeville Telephone Company	300654
23. Sherwood Mutual Telephone Association, Inc.	300656
24. Sycamore Telephone Company	300658
25. Telephone Service Company	300659
26. Vaughnsville Telephone Company	300663
27. Wabash Mutual Telephone Company	300664

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Case No(s). 13-0710-TP-UNC

Summary: Finding & Order that the Commission recertifies to the Federal Communications Commission the study area boundaries of the incumbent local exchange carriers listed in the attachment to this Finding and Order electronically filed by Ms. Donielle M. Hunter on behalf of Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.