BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Joint Petition of T-Mobile Central LLC and VoiceStream Pittsburgh, Limited Partnership dba T-Mobile for Designation as Low-Income Competitive Eligible Telecommunications Carriers.	)	Case No. 11-5726-TP-UNC Case No. 11-5727-TP-UNC

ENTRY

The Commission finds:

(1) Consistent with 47 U.S.C. 214(e)(2), T-Mobile Central LLC dba T-Mobile and VoiceStream Pittsburgh, Limited Partnership dba T-Mobile (collectively, T-Mobile or joint petitioners) were designated as competitive eligible telecommunications carriers (CETCs), pursuant to the Commission's October 3, 2012 Finding and Order, for the limited purpose of offering Lifeline service to qualifying Ohio consumers throughout the service area set forth in the joint application.

(2) On October 6, 2014, as amended on December 3, 2014, T-Mobile filed a joint petition seeking relinquishment of their CETC designations. Specifically, joint petitioners state that they wish to relinquish their CETC designations and cease offering Lifeline service effective December 31, 2014. Joint petitioners note that, although they are seeking to relinquish their CETC designations, they will continue to provide wireless service in Ohio as non-CETCs.

T-Mobile asserts that the request should be granted because it complies with federal law (i.e., 47 U.S.C. 214(e)(4). Specifically, T-Mobile notes that there are 19 other ETCs currently serving in the joint petitioners' ETC service areas from which subscribers will be able obtain service. Therefore, T-Mobile states that Lifeline consumers will not be harmed if the companies no longer offer Lifeline service.

T-Mobile presents a transition plan in order to assist their customers in switching to another Lifeline provider. First, they have discontinued the advertising of a Lifeline service offering in Ohio and will cease withdrawing from the Universal Service

Fund after December 31, 2014. Between December 15, 2014 and December 30, 2014, each company will notify its existing Lifeline customers via text message that it plans to cease offering Lifeline service effective December 31, 2014. Lifeline subscribers will be informed that they can either remain as customers under their existing plan absent the Lifeline discount or transfer to another Lifeline provider. Existing Lifeline subscribers who do not contact the companies will automatically become non-Lifeline customers of their current provider and will continue to receive the same service without the Lifeline discount.

Following the sending of the text message, joint petitioners will provide each Lifeline customer with written notification of the discontinuation of Lifeline service. In recognizing that this migration will result in a monthly increase for all current Lifeline subscribers that remain as non-Lifeline customers, joint petitioners will offer a credit to their subscribers for 60 days from the date of the written notification in order that the monthly rate continues to reflect the same amount as the Lifeline discount for this period of time.

(3) Federal law, 47 U.S.C. 214(e)(4), provides that "[a] state commission shall permit an eligible telecommunications carrier to relinquish its designation as such a carrier in any area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier." However, when doing so, 47 C.F.R. 54.205(b) requires that a state commission ensure that there is at least one remaining ETC serving customers in the area served by the relinquishing carrier before permitting a designated ETC to cease providing universal service in the area.

(4) Upon consideration of the petition, the Commission finds that joint petitioners' Lifeline customers will have an adequate number of other Lifeline providers to choose from within their service territory. Therefore, the joint petitioners' request to exit the Lifeline service market on December 31, 2014, is approved. The companies must promptly provide their Lifeline customers with the text and written notifications discussed in its petition in order to inform these customers of the need to either transition to a non-Lifeline service of the respective company or to switch to another Lifeline service provider.

It is, therefore,

ORDERED, That the joint petition is approved in accordance with Finding (4). It is, further,

ORDERED, That T-Mobile and VoiceStream file verification of two customer notifications referenced in Finding (4). It is, further,

ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon all parties of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

Thomas W. Johnson, Chairman

Steven D. Lesser

Lynn Slaby

M. Beth Trombold

Asim Z. Haque

JSA/dah

Entered in the Journal

DEC 17 2014

Barcy F. McNeal

Barcy F. McNeal
Secretary