



MIKE DeWINE

★ OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL ★

Public Utilities Section

Office 614.466.4395

Fax 614.644.8764

180 East Broad Street, 6th Floor

Columbus, OH 43215-3793

www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov

September 27, 2018

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

USAC
Vice President, High Cost Division
700 12th Street, NW, Suite 900
Washington, DC 20005

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45/WC Docket No. 14-58, Annual State Certification of Support for Eligible Telecommunications Carriers Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.314

Pursuant to the requirements of 47 C.F.R. § 54.314, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio hereby certifies to the Federal Communications Commission and the Universal Service Administrative Company that the telecommunications carriers included in this letter are eligible to receive federal high-cost support for the program years cited.

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio certifies for the carriers listed all federal high-cost support provided to such carriers within Ohio was used in the preceding calendar year (**2017**) and will be used in the coming calendar year (**2019**) only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.¹

Accompanying this letter are a copy of a Finding & Order issued by the Ohio Commission on September 26, 2018 (Attachment 1), and a list of certified carriers (Attachment 2). If

¹ 47 C.F.R. §54.314(a) (“Certification. States that desire eligible telecommunications carriers to receive support pursuant to the high-cost program must file an annual certification with the Administrator and the Commission stating that all federal high-cost support provided to such carriers within that State was used in the preceding calendar year and will be used in the coming calendar year only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. High-cost support shall only be provided to the extent that the State has filed the requisite certification pursuant to this section.”).

you should have any questions or comments regarding this submittal, please contact me at the number below or Jason Well with the PUCO at (614) 644-8032.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Werner L. Margard

Werner L. Margard III

Public Utilities Section

30 E. Broad Street, 16th Floor

Columbus, OH 43215

(614) 466-4396

Fax: (614) 644-8764

Attachments

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE ANNUAL FILING
REQUIREMENTS FOR 2018 PERTAINING
TO THE PROVISIONING OF HIGH-COST
UNIVERSAL SERVICE.

CASE No. 18-1115-TP-COI

FINDING AND ORDER

Entered in the Journal on September 26, 2018

I. SUMMARY

{¶ 1} In this Finding and Order, the Commission certifies to the Federal Communications Commission and the Universal Service Administrative Company those carriers eligible to receive federal high-cost support.

II. APPLICABLE LAW

{¶ 2} Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. 54.314, states that desire telecommunications carriers to receive support pursuant to the high-cost program must file an annual certification with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) stating that all federal high-cost support provided to such carriers within the state was used in the preceding calendar year and will be used in the coming year only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

{¶ 3} Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-6-09(C)(1) provides that in order to be eligible for federal universal funding in a given year, all eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) receiving high-cost funding in a given year, including incumbent local exchange carriers and competitive local exchange carriers, must file no later than August 31st of each year an affidavit with the Commission stating that all federal high-cost support provided to the carrier for service areas in Ohio will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support was intended pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 254(e).

III. PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

{¶ 4} In order to comply with the FCC's certification requirements, and consistent with Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-6-09(C), on August 16, 2018, the attorney examiner released an Entry in the instant docket calling for notarized affidavits from those carriers presently receiving federal universal service high-cost funding in Ohio, attesting that they will utilize such support consistent with 47 U.S.C. 254(e). Each Ohio high-cost ETC that anticipates funding for calendar year 2019 from any high-cost mechanism was directed to complete and file with the Commission in this proceeding a notarized copy of the affidavit form (Attachment A of the August 16, 2018 Entry). Without such certification, the FCC will not permit carriers to continue to receive federal universal service support.

{¶ 5} Consistent with the Entry of August 16, 2018, the 42 carriers set forth in Attachment A to this Finding and Order filed notarized affidavits for the corresponding study codes.

IV. DISCUSSION

{¶ 6} The Commission staff has reviewed the affidavits submitted by the 42 carriers and has concluded that the notarized affidavits satisfy the FCC's requirements for certification to receive high-cost funding consistent with 47 U.S.C. 254(e).

{¶ 7} The Commission finds that certification should be granted for the carriers set forth in Attachment A in order to receive federal high-cost support consistent with 47 C.F.R. 54.314.

V. ORDER

{¶ 8} It is, therefore,

{¶ 9} ORDERED, That all carriers identified in Attachment A are hereby certified to the FCC and USAC as being eligible to receive federal high-cost support as contemplated by 47 C.F.R. 54.314. It is, further,

(¶ 10) ORDERED, That the Commission staff send a letter to the FCC and USAC by October 1, 2018, certifying the carriers as being eligible to receive federal high-cost support for 2019. It is, further,

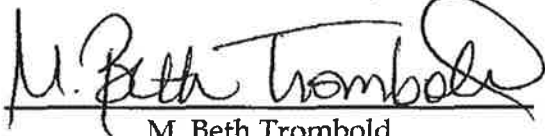
(¶ 11) ORDERED, That nothing contained in this Finding and Order shall be deemed binding upon this Commission in any subsequent investigation or proceeding involving the justness or reasonableness of any rate, charge, rule, or regulation. It is, further,

(¶ 12) ORDERED, That a copy of this Finding and Order be served upon all parties and interested persons of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO



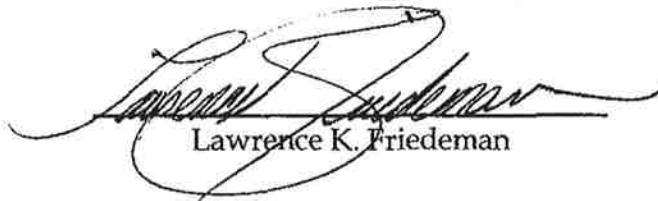
Asim Z. Haque, Chairman



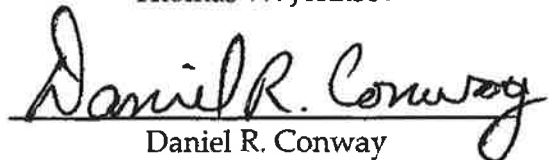
M. Beth Trombold



Thomas W. Johnson



Lawrence K. Friedeman



Daniel R. Conway

JSA/mef

Entered in the Journal

SEP 26 2018



Barcy F. McNeal
Secretary

ATTACHMENT A
Case No. 18-1115-TP-COI

| Company Name | Study Area Code |
|---|-----------------|
| Arcadia Telephone Company d/b/a TDS Telecom | 300585 |
| Arthur Mutual Telephone Company | 300586 |
| AT&T Ohio | 305150 |
| Ayersville Telephone Company | 300588 |
| Bascom Mutual Telephone Company | 300589 |
| Benton Ridge Telephone Company | 300590 |
| Buckland Telephone Company | 300591 |
| CenturyTel of Ohio dba CenturyLink | 300630 |
| Champaign Telephone Company | 300594 |
| Chillicothe Telephone Company | 300597 |
| Cincinnati Bell Telephone Company LLC | 305062 |
| Columbus Grove Telephone Company d/b/a Consolidated Communications/Columbus Grove | 300604 |
| Conneaut Telephone Company | 300606 |
| Continental Telephone Company d/b/a TDS Telecom | 300607 |
| Doylestown Telephone Company | 300609 |
| Farmers Mutual Telephone Company | 300612 |
| Fort Jennings Telephone Company | 300614 |
| Frontier Communications of Michigan, Inc. | 300682 |
| Frontier North Inc. | 300615 |
| Germantown Independent Telephone Company d/b/a Consolidated Communications/Germantown | 300618 |
| Glandorf Telephone Company, Inc. | 300619 |
| Kalida Telephone Company, Inc. | 300625 |
| Little Miami Communication Corporation d/b/a TDS Telecom | 300613 |
| McClure Telephone | 300598 |
| Middle Point Home Telephone Company | 300633 |
| Minford Telephone Company | 300634 |
| New Knoxville Telephone Company | 300639 |
| Nova Telephone Company | 300644 |
| Oakwood Telephone Company d/b/a TDS Telecom | 300645 |
| Orwell Telephone Company d/b/a Consolidated Communications/Orwell | 300649 |
| Pattersonville Telephone Company | 300651 |
| Ridgeville Telephone Company | 300654 |
| Sherwood Mutual Telephone Association, Inc. | 300656 |
| Sycamore Telephone Company | 300658 |
| Telephone Service Company | 300659 |
| The Ottoville Mutual Telephone Company | 300650 |
| United Telephone Company dba CenturyLink | 300661 |
| Varlue Telephone Company d/b/a TDS Telecom | 300662 |
| Vaughnsville Telephone Company | 300663 |
| Wabash Mutual Telephone Company | 300664 |
| Windstream Ohio Inc. | 300665 |
| Windstream Western Reserve, Inc. | 300666 |

ATTACHMENT 2

Presented below is a list of those Ohio carriers that have satisfied the PUCO's affidavit requirement, and thus obtained certification to receive federal high cost support, including high cost loop support, local switching support, high cost support received pursuant to the purchase of exchanges, high cost model support, and hold harmless support .

Carriers Having Properly Filed 254(e) Rural Affidavits

| Study Area Name | SAC |
|--|------------|
| Arcadia Telephone Company d/b/a TDS Telecom | 300585 |
| Arthur Mutual Telephone Company | 300586 |
| AT&T Ohio | 305150 |
| Ayersville Telephone Company | 300588 |
| Bascom Mutual Telephone Company | 300589 |
| Benton Ridge Telephone Company | 300590 |
| Buckland Telephone Company | 300591 |
| CenturyTel of Ohio d/b/a CenturyLink | 300630 |
| Champaign Telephone Company | 300594 |
| Chillicothe Telephone Company | 300597 |
| Cincinnati Bell Telephone Company LLC | 305062 |
| Columbus Grove Telephone Company d/b/a Consolidated Communications / Columbus Grove | 300604 |
| Conneaut Telephone Company | 300606 |
| Continental Telephone Company d/b/a TDS Telecom | 300607 |
| Doylestown Telephone Company | 300609 |
| Farmers Mutual Telephone Company | 300612 |
| Fort Jennings Telephone Company | 300614 |
| Frontier Communications of Michigan, Inc. | 300682 |
| Frontier North Inc. | 300615 |
| Germantown Independent Telephone Company d/b/a Consolidated Communications / Germantown | 300618 |

ATTACHMENT 2

| | |
|--|--------|
| Glandorf Telephone Company, Inc. | 300619 |
| Kalida Telephone Company, Inc. | 300625 |
| Little Miami Communication Corporation d/b/a TDS Telecom | 300613 |
| McClure Telephone | 300598 |
| Middle Point Home Telephone Company | 300633 |
| Minford Telephone Company | 300634 |
| New Knoxville Telephone Company | 300639 |
| Nova Telephone Company | 300644 |
| Oakwood Telephone Company d/b/a TDS Telecom | 300645 |
| Orwell Telephone Company d/b/a Consolidated Communications / Orwell | 300649 |
| Pattersonville Telephone Company | 300651 |
| Ridgeville Telephone Company | 300654 |
| Sherwood Mutual Telephone Association, Inc. | 300656 |
| Sycamore Telephone Company | 300658 |
| Telephone Service Company | 300659 |
| The Ottoville Mutual Telephone Company | 300650 |
| United Telephone Company of Ohio d/b/a Centurylink | 300661 |
| Vanlue Telephone Company d/b/a TDS Telecom | 300662 |
| Vaughnsville Telephone Company | 300663 |
| Wabash Mutual Telephone Company | 300664 |
| Windstream Ohio, Inc. | 300665 |
| Windstream Western Reserve, Inc. | 300666 |

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Case No(s). 18-1115-TP-COI

Summary: Correspondence Letter from the AGO to the FCC & USAC w/attached Commission Finding & Order certifying the eligibility of high -cost carriers to receive federal high-cost support; confirmation of receipt electronically filed by Jason Well on behalf of PUCO Staff